

Winter/Spring 2017

SALESIAN®

*Salesians in the
U.S. and Mexico aid
migrant children*

- See page 2



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Letter from the Editor



Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

Some days, it seems, the world brims over – not with happiness, but heartache.

Around every corner, something sinister lurks: brutal wars, senseless violence, devastating disasters and suffocating poverty – all of which conspire to crush the spirits, and rob the futures, of children and families who yearn for nothing but the chance for a better life.

And yet – as you will read about in the following pages – there is light: shone into the darkest corners of the world by caring friends like you.

You help comfort desperate and frightened little girls and boys who have fled their countries, alone, in search of safety and hope (*more about this on page 2*). You help ignite the dreams, and fuel the prospects, of immigrant and unemployed youth like Sheila (*page 14*). You help orphaned, abandoned and abused children like Hector (*page 18*) and Veronica (*page 27*) find the loving support they so desperately need.

And each year, you inspire dozens of passionate, talented and devoted young men and women like Charlene, whose wisdom I paraphrase below, to fan out across the globe – living their faith in action in support of the most downtrodden and vulnerable among us. You may read the reflections of some of these Salesian Lay Missioners, whom I believe will positively alter the trajectory of the world, beginning on *page 8*.

Despite the world's brokenness, God works through us – our Salesian missionaries and you – to serve the children and families entrusted to our care. Together, we ease their burdens and soothe their despair, so that they may envision – and realize – a future full of potential, opportunity and joy.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being part of this life-changing collaboration.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark Hyde, S.D.B.



Please know that throughout 2017, Masses will be offered for you and our other partners in mission at the Basilica of Jesus the Adolescent in Bethlehem and here at our Salesian Missions Chapel.

Crossing the Border Alone

Salesians Aid Unaccompanied Minors



They rode atop trains. They crossed dangerous rivers. They endured hunger and pain. They risked being trafficked or even killed. And, saddest of all, they were children.

It came to be known as the Central American “unaccompanied minor” crisis, which peaked in the summer of 2014, but continues today. What would make these children set out on such a risky and difficult journey? It was already a matter of life and death because what they were fleeing was often a far worse fate. Organized crime and gang violence had overtaken the places they called home.

The violence and hardship endured by these children in the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras is unimaginable. Often, their parents and guardians had already been murdered or simply disappeared, leaving them to fend for themselves. In an attempt to better their lives (or to merely survive), tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors chose to escape the violence



by fleeing to the United States. Some were trying to find family members already in the country. Others simply heard it was a safe place. To reach that safety, they would have to further risk their lives.

Many of those who survive their journeys end up in Mexican juvenile detention centers, waiting to be sent back to the very places they were escaping. Some attempted to cross the Rio Grande river into the United States and ended up in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or, even worse, drowned during their attempt. Makeshift memorials for these children are along the river's edge in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, which marks the border. After traveling hundreds of miles, these children made it so close to their dream that these memorials can be seen from U.S. soil on the other side. It is a heartbreaking reminder of what is at stake – and why something must be done to help these desperate children.



Memorials like this are up and down the river's edge in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. They are a sad reminder of the children who drowned trying to cross to the United States.

Salesians in Laredo, Texas, are working with Salesians in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Together they are providing support to unaccompanied minors who end up in a place that is foreign to them, far from anyone they know. These are children who risked their lives to reach the safety of the United States, only to be deported back to a facility in Mexico (a place still far from home). They are frightened and traumatized by their experiences and are grateful that the Salesians are there for them. Aid is offered to these young peo-

ple as well as psycho-social support to help them cope with the aftermath of their ordeals.

Additionally, Salesians in Central America and the United States have been working over the course of the last two years to develop ways to ensure that more youth do not have to make this treacherous journey. By working with the youth

inside the borders of their home countries, these missionaries believe that they can be a positive influence that will ultimately offer youth better life choices. This approach will also ease the strain placed along the border of Mexico and the United States. While this work will not be easy, the Salesians are dedicated and determined to continue developing solutions to the ongoing issue of violence and crime plaguing



Salesians of the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Tijuana care for homeless and hungry migrant families.

young people in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

As part of this work, the Salesians are setting up an international team responsible for the implementation of projects focused on this problem. This work will include sharing information regarding the movement of migrants along the U.S.- Mexico border, providing support to the seven Salesian communities along the border that work with the unaccompanied minors,



and collaborating to address the migrant population issue – with a focus on prevention.

Using the words of Don Bosco as inspiration, “*anyone in trouble is my friend,*” it is important to remember these children who seek nothing but a better life – and the dedicated Salesian missionaries who are working tirelessly on their behalf. ♥



Every day, youngsters like this risk their lives to seek a better future.

**Learn More! View a video of Salesians working with refugee children.
Go to: www.SalesianMissions.org/crossing-borders**



Salesians in the U.S. and Canada



In 1897 the first Salesian missionaries (Priests & Brothers) settled in California. Salesian Sisters soon followed, arriving in New Jersey in 1908. Being a missionary in the U.S. at the time was difficult and challenging – but the good works progressed.

Today over 450 professed Salesian Priests, Brothers and Sisters are present in the United States and Canada. Salesian Provinces based in Haledon NJ, New Rochelle NY, San Antonio TX, San Francisco CA, and Montreal, Canada, serve thousands of young and poor throughout both countries. Their ministries encompass day care centers, elementary and high schools, formation houses, religious education centers, parishes, summer camps, development offices and youth centers. Thankfully, the spirit and joy of Don Bosco is still alive today in the U.S. and Canada!

A Blossoming Philanthropist

When 6th-grader Ethan Coore learned about Hurricane Matthew's devastating effects on the people of Haiti, he wanted to do something meaningful to help.

You see, Ethan's mother works here at the Mission Office. One day she told Ethan about the suffering in Haiti and how the Salesians were trying to help. So Ethan took action! He decided to orchestrate a bake sale for his schoolmates at the Bronx Charter School for Excellence.



I would like to thank Salesian Missions for allowing me to help rebuild lives in Haiti affected by Hurricane Matthew. This makes me feel happy. Most of all I felt thankful. I hope the money that has been raised will help the people.

I also want to thank my friends that helped me - Alexis, Kymari and Vanessa. We all worked the bake sale every day and had a blast doing it.

God bless you,
Ethan Coore

He enlisted fellow students and family members to make and donate dessert items such as brownies, cookies, cupcakes, cereal treats, popcorn and much more. Ethan sold them at his school over four days at the end of October. He and several helpers raised \$319.00 for the people of Haiti.

Ethan came to the Mission Office with his mother one morning and presented the check to Fr. Mark. We give a big THANK YOU to Ethan... the blossoming philanthropist... and a caring young man.

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
- Membership in the Don Bosco Legacy Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PLANNED GIVING:

- Visit our website at: www.SalesianMissions.org/annuity
- 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!

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2017

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)

AMOUNT OF GIFT CONSIDERED \$ _____

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(Not available in the state of Washington)

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Date of birth _____ Sex _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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WE CANNOT SEND INFORMATION WITHOUT DATE OF BIRTH

FOR JOINT ANNUITY (PLEASE PRINT):

NAME OF OTHER PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____



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Notes From the Field:

Personal accounts by Salesian Lay Missioners, (SLMs)



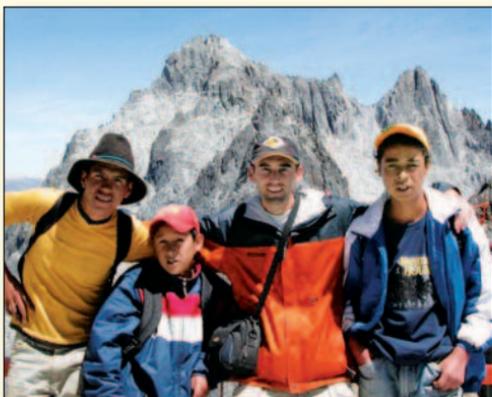
Salesian Lay Missioners share in the tradition, prayer, work, family spirit, community life and educational method of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Their primary mission is to be present among the children where they are serving. This can take many forms – from the soccer fields of outlying communities to the city streets working with abandoned street children. Are you looking for a challenge? Do you feel a tugging at your heart to investigate more?

Don Bosco's mission continues with the SLM Program. Each and every volunteer brings his or her missionary spirit to each community they serve – caring for the youth and just being a friend.

Here a few testimonials from devoted SLMs working throughout the world:

"I have learned many things spending a year with the SLM program. Living in community, working with young people, giving back to God through service what He has bestowed on me in the way of gifts and talents. Also being more independent, trying new things and loving and receiving love unconditionally."

Steve
Vietnam





“In my year as a Salesian Lay Missioner, the greatest lesson God had prepared for me was how to face my failures with an attitude of Christian charity. I was nowhere near being a perfect missionary, but I learned to accept my mistakes, be humbled by them, and offer them back to God. I came to realize as an SLM that God wants all of me (even the parts of myself I try to hide from Him) and that despite my brokenness, He can work through me to greet the children He entrusted to my care.”

Charlene
Bolivia

“As an SLM I learned and experienced the love of Christ. That even though we have differences and at times face hardships and trials, the love of Christ lives above all else! Being an SLM taught me about our call to love others and gave a sense of passion to the mission that Christ calls us all to. It helped strengthen my beliefs by turning the written Word of God into an action in my everyday life. To read and pray with the Scriptures is truly important, but to live and experience the Gospel as a missionary gave a whole new meaning to Christ’s commandment to ‘love one another as He has loved us’ (cf. John 13:34).”

Daniel
South Sudan





“Years after my mission, I still talk frequently about what I’ve learned and what has changed for me as a result of being a Salesian Lay Missioner. I think the most obvious lesson I learned is what I’m truly passionate about – helping children and communities in the most difficult situations have a voice and support. Working closely with the Salesians, I also had a newfound understanding of the realization of faith in action

and the necessity of compassion. I’m grateful that I have continuing relationships with my fellow missioners and Salesians I lived with, and the experience completely changed my life.”

Van

Ethiopia

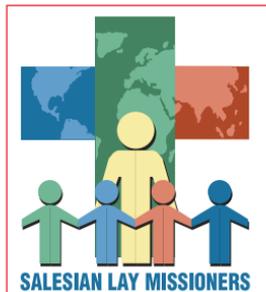
Learn more about our work! Visit www.salesianmissions.org

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**



What was once sticks and straw...

Millions of people throughout Africa, Central and South America, India and Asia are celebrating Mass and worshiping 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.

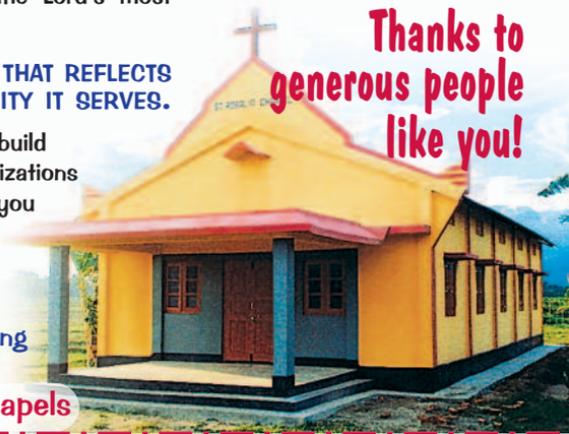
Read more about our Chapel Building Program by visiting us online at:

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.

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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Please send me more information. (You can also Email or phone us, if you wish)

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(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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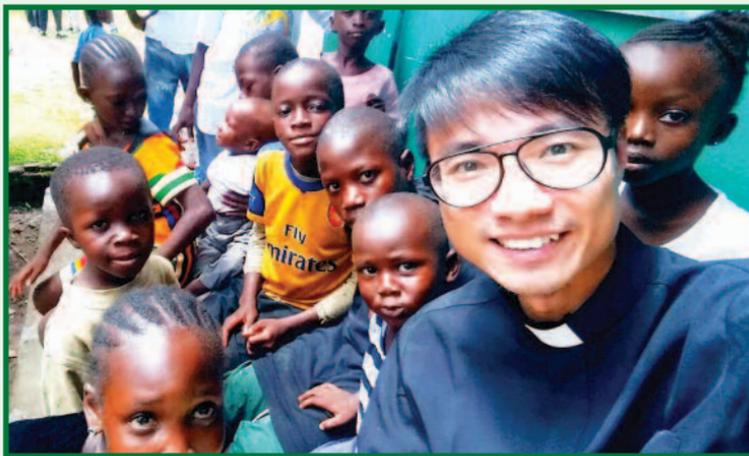
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A Missionary Reflection...

“Do I see Christ in the children I meet today?”



In September 2015, Brother Lo Po Tak Anthony, originally from Hong Kong, arrived in the English-speaking province of Western Africa. Bro. Anthony first served in Ghana and then transferred to Sierra Leone where he has been continuing his practical training as a Salesian apostolate. This is how he describes his experiences:

“I am assigned to visit five outstation schools – a different one each day. Because there are no Salesians working there, my mission is to work with the children and staff and try to instill the Salesian spirit. Using a variety of activities – music, creative arts, physical education, and sports – I help students experience other aspects of learning and enjoy their time in and out of the classroom.

“The most important thing is to bring the students closer to God, to help them be immersed in His joy and love. I also guide teachers toward



a better understanding of Don Bosco's Preventive System: showing them that loving kindness, not punishment, is an effective way to encourage good behavior.

"Of course, each school has unique policies and settings, so I must tailor my approach accordingly. I meet with the principals and teachers to better understand their needs, and the needs of their students. My work can be challenging and difficult, but I am not afraid of it; for the more challenging and difficult it is, the more blessings I receive from God. I try my best, and God does the rest – for myself, and for my students.

"I always ask myself, 'Do I see Christ in the children I meet today?' And the answer is 'Yes.' Through these children and youth, He shares His love and blessings with me.

"The Salesians have so many beautiful works here – schools, a parish, a youth center and a Junior Seminary – with thousands of children and youth participating. There is a diversity of people, and they coexist peacefully and demonstrate high respect for one another.



"For all of these reasons, I am so happy to be here. I pray to God every day, that He strengthens my faith and helps me be His instrument to proclaim the Good News to young people. I hope, through the guidance of my good teacher Mother Mary, that I grow to be a holy Salesian and humble missionary.

"Please pray for me, as I will surely do for you." ♥

New Opportunities for Unemployed Youth in Spain



Today, to be young in Spain is to live a life far removed from the romance and hope its culture evokes. Facing a devastated economy and poor employment prospects, the aspirations of youth in the country are challenged by an uncertain future. Despite these obstacles, however, Salesian missionaries in Madrid are committed to reigniting their dreams and fueling their opportunities, one person at a time.

When economies across Europe began to collapse in 2009, Spain was among the hardest hit of the 27 countries comprising the European Union (EU) and it now suffers the greatest economic and



societal inequality. Close to 25 percent of workers are unemployed, and a growing number of citizens can't afford to buy the food they need for adequate nutrition. One in five people live below the poverty line, and youth struggle the most to find and retain stable employment.

Immigrant youth, especially – newly arrived from war-torn or impoverished countries in search of a new life – are even further disenfranchised. With rudimentary language skills, few social connections and difficulty navigating the financial system, they face an uphill battle to achieve an independent future free from poverty.

For these reasons, Salesian missionaries in Madrid have launched an innovative new program spearheaded by the Pinardi Federation of Salesian Social Platforms, and in collaboration with the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, called “First Professional Experience.” Through this program, implemented at the end of 2014, students are matched with recognized companies in the hospitality and tourism industry, including Meliá Hotels International, the Hilton Madrid Airport, KFC, and others. Individually assisted by professional mentors, these students complete two- to four-month internships where they learn practical jobs skills. They also have access to English language lessons, financial edu-



Both Spanish young people and recent immigrants benefit from Salesian-led job training in the hospitality and tourism industry.



cation and life skills training, all of which aim to increase their future employability.

“With so many young people out of work and facing conditions of poverty in Spain, it is vital for Salesian-led workforce development programs to respond to market demand,” says Father Mark



Hyde, director of Salesian Missions. “Students in these programs have a real opportunity to enter the workforce prepared both in terms of the skills they have learned, and in their social development – ensuring their ability to find and retain livable-wage jobs throughout their lifetime.”

The Salesian “First Professional Experience” program combines both classroom and on-the-job training.

Recently, the Pinar di Federation and executives of JP Morgan Chase gathered to honor the premier graduating class of “First Professional Experience.” Noting that 73 of its 97 participants have already secured jobs – a 75% success rate – JP Morgan of Spain managing director Pedro Boada observed that “these results demonstrate that the collaboration between companies and social organizations is the best way to ensure that young people have a better present and a better future.”

Sheila, one of the program’s graduates, is living proof of Boada’s words. Wearing the official uniform of her new Hilton employer – and a broad grin – she exclaims, “this program has been very rewarding!” ♥

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!

MAKE A SECURE DONATION ONLINE AT WWW.SALESIANMISSIONS.ORG/MIRACLE

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

WIN/SPR 2017

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

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"We Are His Only Family"

The Story of Hector

It is hot and humid and the streets of the town of Montero, Bolivia are busy on this Wednesday afternoon. Hector and approximately 16 other children are going to have a very rare treat... ice cream in the main square.

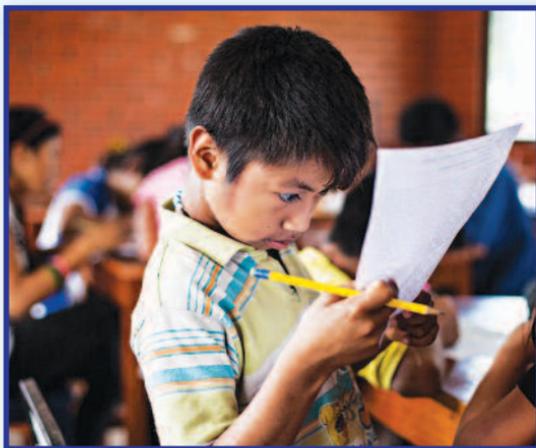


Hector is a 10-year-old boy with no relatives and no information about his past. He has been living in shelters almost all his life. At first he lived in "Mano Amiga," one of the six Salesian projects in the Santa Cruz region. He arrived with seven other children from another shelter that was closing down. In the beginning Hector refused to talk, but with loving care and stability, he finally uttered his first words after one year. Hector is still very shy, but he now talks and reads. He enjoys resting in his tidy bunk bed after lunch to read a book, one of his favorite activities.

Hector stayed at the home for five years, and no one ever visited him. The Salesians are his only family.

Today Hector lives at “Granja Moglia” a Salesian project near the city of Montero, where he attends school. The “Granja Moglia” has a farm with many different animals used as part of the children’s therapy. Just to be able to be outside, play and go swimming in a river is wonderful for the children – it is also a great incentive for them to push forward.

When the classroom work is over, Hector and the other kids have time to play together and just be kids.



Then later, in the dining hall, all the children pray. They pray twice, before and after every meal. They thank God for the food and shelter they have – and always ask God to remember the other children who have nothing to eat and are living on the streets.

A Salesian working at the home reflects: “We need patience and love, lots of it. We don’t know how much these little ones have suffered in the past, but there is a special reason why the Lord has brought them to us.” ♥

**Learn More! View a video of another street child, Freddy, also from Bolivia:
Go to: www.SalesianMissions.org/homeless-youth**

Salesian Snapshots

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

INDIA: Raising social awareness

Don Bosco College Tura held an initiative this past fall in Guwahati, India, to raise awareness of social responsibility and service to the needy. They provided free eye-tests and invited people to donate blood. Over 400 people signed up to give blood, while the medical team performed physical exams. The eye team, led by Dr. Swapna Sarkar, examined over 200 students and people from neighboring villages, promising free cataract operations for those who needed them.

The two-fold aim of the program was to sensitize the students



Young people donated blood as part of a Salesian initiative to raise awareness of helping those less fortunate.

on issues of civic and social responsibility while reaching out to the needy people of the neighborhood.

The event showed great teamwork and spirit among the staff and students, and it was moving to see the generosity of those who pledged to donate their blood to the needy.



ETHIOPIA: Ensuring the basic needs of young refugees

The Salesian refugee camp in Pugnido, Ethiopia, is home to around 60,000 people, most of whom have fled the violence and turmoil in South Sudan. Since 2006, our mission in Pugnido has grown and developed to better serve the ever-increasing population of refugees.

From day one, the Salesian priority has been to aid the youngest of the group. They face significant challenges, but are committed to ensuring that all of the children have access to edu-



A group of young refugees expressing their gratitude to the Salesians... and to you.

cation, food, clean water and health care.

The Pugnido mission has been able to accomplish this with the help of many caring friends. The generosity and especially the heartfelt prayers of good people like you have given our missionaries the means to offer a better future to children who have endured so much.

EL SALVADOR: Encouraging girls to study Technology

Don Bosco University in El Salvador, San Salvador, is one of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in the country, particularly in the technological sector. In the past, the school was attended mainly by boys but now the University has started a new initiative called the Science Camp for Girls.



Young women now have opportunities they never dreamed of due to the Salesian Science Camp for Girls.

The purpose of this innovative project is to open up the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to the girls of the area.

This is a long-term project with a strategic vision. 123 girls have participated in this new program over the last two years.

Jennifer, one of the students, says, "This is really a very nice experience. At the beginning, everything seemed so difficult, but little by little, I realized that I can do it. No one can tell me that I cannot do anything because yes, I can!" She is looking forward to studying Mechanical Engineering.

At this university, and now with programs for young women, the Salesians are able to offer a path toward a successful future to both boys and girls in this country often filled with violence and despair. ♥

First Salesian Family Celebration!



A High Mass was celebrated in the lovely Marian Shrine Chapel on the property.

On Saturday August 13, 2016, at the Salesian National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians in Stony Point, New York, our very first Salesian Family Celebration took place. Attendees included our Director, Fr. Mark Hyde, Salesian Missions staff volunteers, and donors belonging to our Don Bosco Legacy Society.

The day started with a meet and greet morning breakfast with Fr. Mark, followed by a Mass of Perpetual Profession during which Brother Juan Pablo Rubio made his perpetual profession as a Salesian of Don Bosco.

Following this most beautiful and holy event, all attendees enjoyed a delicious summer barbecue that combined fellowship, fun and a true sense of belonging to the Salesian Family.

Not only were we joined by a host of Salesian clergy, we were blessed to have in our presence nearly a dozen newly commissioned Salesian lay



Fr. Mark enjoying the company of Don Bosco Legacy Society members.



A display of information and videos illustrate how your donations support Salesian works throughout the world.

missionaries who just received their missionary cross and were about to begin their missionary journeys throughout the world.

It truly was an inspiring afternoon!

Many thanks are extended to our Provincial, Fr. Steve Shafran, S.D.B., who offered his love and gratitude to one and all. A special thank you also goes to Fr. Jim McKenna, S.D.B., director of the Marian Shrine, who graciously welcomed us. ♥



Salesian Brother Juan Pablo Rubio, professed his perpetual vows at a special Mass.

For more information about becoming a charter member of the Don Bosco Legacy Society, please go online to: www.SalesianMissions.org/dbls

Hoping for a Brighter Future

The Story of Veronica



The light from the window is filtered by a pink curtain. Veronica, a 12-year-old girl, is sitting down on her bed at the Patio Don Bosco Shelter in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It is a temporary home for young boys and girls who come from troubled family situations. Many are victims of physical and psychological abuse.

Children at the Salesian-run shelter range in age from six to twelve. This is Veronica's second stay at Patio Don Bosco. Her father died and her mother is an alcoholic. "We have a case of a little girl who has been here before, and now is back," says Karina Velásquez the social worker at Patio Don Bosco. "She was living with her mother, but the situation of the mother is complicated and she can't go back with her now."

According to psychologist Lizett Guzman, the hardest thing in this process is when you have to explain to little girls and boys that going back home is no longer a possibility. Then the search for a permanent shelter starts, a place they can live until they reach the age of 18.

One of the main goals of working with these children is to help them heal their scarred hearts and minds without really knowing what happened to them – *how much they have really suffered*.

For the Salesians and staff of Patio Don Bosco, it is an endless job. They care for children all year round and work 24 hours a day. Their priority is to provide love and security while searching for a safe, permanent home for children like Veronica. ♥



Veronica (left) finally has a safe and happy home at the Patio Don Bosco.

Count Your Blessings - Grant a Wish!

The Salesians work in over 130 countries. Just imagine, then, how many of our missionaries write to tell us of their hopes and dreams, trials and successes. Maybe, as you count your blessings, you could grant a wish. God bless you!

Fr. Mark



WISHES OF THE MONTH

- **Give comfort and hope to migrant youth.** Thousands of unaccompanied minors have risked their lives fleeing violence and crime in Central America – only to end up, alone and terrified, in a holding facility on the U.S. – Mexico border. Your generosity provides material aid and psycho-social support for these precious children. *See p.2.*
- **Rebuild lives and livelihoods in Haiti.** More than one million people were affected by a devastating hurricane this past October, and thousands of families remain homeless. Every gift – like young Ethan's (*page 6*) – helps us shelter, feed and clothe them as we simultaneously plan for reconstruction.
- **Empower girls through education.** Far too often, young women in El Salvador lack opportunities to develop the confidence and skills they need to secure financial independence. Thanks to your help, we have launched a Science Camp for Girls that has already benefitted 123 students. *See p.22.*
- **Give troubled children a home.** Patio Don Bosco in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, is a safe and happy place for hundreds of mistreated boys and girls. It serves as a temporary home and provides food, a warm bed, and most importantly, love and compassion. Your support helps shelter these children and gives our missionaries the means to find them permanent homes. *See p.27.*

GRANT A WISH REPLY FORM

WIN/SPR 2017

YES, I want to help make a wish come true for Salesians and the poor children and families they serve. I am enclosing my donation of:

\$7 \$10 \$25 Other \$ _____ for the life-saving works featured in this magazine and all the other Salesian programs that benefit the needy.

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WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
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WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JULY 31, 2016
CARMEN ARMATYS, BUFFALO NY

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
JUNE 30, 2016
MARK L. MONNIN, LOS OSOS CA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
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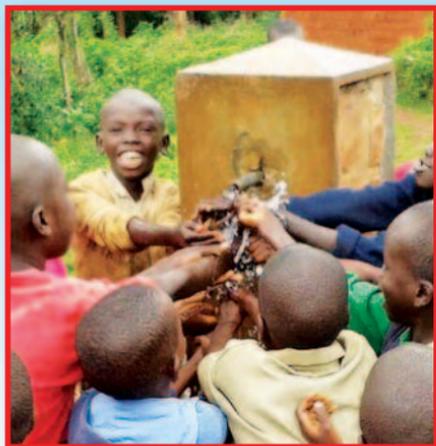
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In our efforts to raise additional funds to support our worldwide work for the poor and needy, we periodically make your name and address available to other mailers. These include similar charitable and humanitarian organizations and also companies 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.

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*"Whoever drinks the
water I shall give
will never thirst"
- John 4-14*



Your support of our Clean Water Initiative has helped provide these children with life giving water.

With access to clean water for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing, communities are leading more decent lives. Less risk of death from water-borne illness... fewer challenges associated with making arduous trips to find clean water to carry home... decent bathroom facilities and sanitary conditions at schools which provide children with a healthier environment.

Safe, clean water has been provided thanks to generous friends like you!

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