Another World is Possible

His father abandoned the family when Hernand was just one month old. His mother Eliza is only 17, unemployed, and until recently lived on the streets.

Without meaningful intervention, Hernand’s future promises only one thing: the same suffocating poverty that traps nearly 82 percent of Madagascar’s youth in despair.

Fortunately, Hernand now benefits from services offered through the Salesian TAIZA project – a child’s-rights network present in each borough of Madagascar’s capital city. Here, young, impoverished mothers and their babies can access social services, health education, peer support groups, literacy programs and more – free of charge.

“Since Hernand was born, I am part of the mother-child group,” says Eliza. “Especially in these early months, I have learned how to properly care for him, look after my own health, and have found real friends and support. I am so grateful for this program.”

Although Hernand will face many challenges ahead, he is now on the path toward a much brighter future, thanks to the Salesians.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

During this period of global unrest, please pray that all God’s children – regardless of race, religion and gender – may live together in peace and harmony and be protected from senseless violence and hate.
In East Timor...
Salesian sisters are working to improve the economic conditions, and futures, of women and girls in the district capital of Venilale.

This work is critically important, as the country continues to grapple with the root causes of its pervasive poverty: inadequate educational access, lack of employment opportunities and gender inequality, among others.

At the FMA (Salesian Sisters) Vocational High School, students who complete programs in catering, hotel management or tailoring now have opportunities for on-site apprenticeships that further sharpen their competencies while providing six months of paid employment. This real-world experience is invaluable in helping students find steady jobs after graduating.

“This is a young country; more than half our population is under the age of 19,” says Salesian Sister Joanna Goik. “If taught a valuable job skill, these young women can and will be a force in transforming the country, and their own lives.”

In Romania...
The Salesian oratory in Constantina (known as “the Yellow House”) shines a warm beacon of hope into the darkest corners of this city’s streets, where impoverished youth – facing futures with few prospects – live a cold, harsh life.

For the past 20 years, staff has welcomed these vulnerable children into the warmth and safety of the center, guiding them toward activities and opportunities that uncover their innate talents: sports and recreation; arts and music; and, when ready, vocational training and employment assistance.

“We always have a lot of requests from companies that rely on our training, because not only do we teach a job, but we serve the students in their entirety,” says Mr. Van Ho. “They learn business protocol, personal presentation and soft skills, which are critical to any employee’s success.”

In a country where an estimated 1.7 million youth are living with a disability, this new bakery school truly offers the bread of new life, and hope.

In Vietnam...

Thanks to a new Salesian bakery school, disabled youth in Ho Chi Minh City are learning to shape brighter futures, one loaf of bread at a time.

Envisioned by Francis Van Hoai, a past Salesian pupil, the school offers in-demand training to students who otherwise would have few opportunities for employment. Upon graduation, hundreds of top-rated restaurants and hotels will seek the expertise of these newly trained artisans.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Thomas Koshy

First called to his vocation at the age of 15, there was no going back for Thomas Koshy of Kerala, India once he entered the Salesians. Ordained in 1969, he has served in India ever since.

The poor have always been in his heart. But, Fr. Koshy’s passion to serve the most downtrodden of society truly ignited when he was a theology student. That is when he worked to release some of India’s bonded laborers from slavery.

In 1989, he went to Vijayawada where, at the invitation of the mayor, he established Don Bosco Navajeevan Bal Bhavan (“New Life Children’s Home”). Since then, he has devoted his life to girls and boys living on the streets.

“I consider love and loving kindness as the most important aspect in caring for these children,” Fr. Koshy says. Following this guiding principle, he and his staff have helped more than 25,000 children get off the streets.

Recently, Fr. Koshy was appointed to the committee for India’s Care and Protection of Children Act – a true honor, and testament to his life’s work.

Saying “No” to Violence
Dear Friend,

Syria. South Sudan. Myanmar. Iraq. Today, it seems, there is more violence and hatred than the world can bear.

When I talk to our Salesian missionaries on the ground, I hear a more optimistic story. Among the diverse communities in which they serve, they report a common understanding and respect, fostered by Don Bosco’s message of love.

“Do away with insults, quarrels, envy, revenge or bad will,” Don Bosco said. “This will prove that you love each other like brothers.”

Now more than ever, our missions have become committed to modeling this message in their words, deeds and programs. They know, in their hearts, that their example will inspire today’s youth to lead future generations into a time of stability, and opportunity, for all.

Please know how grateful I am for your generous support. Together, we shine a bright light of hope for the men and women of tomorrow.

May God Bless You!

Fr. Mark Kelly, SCA

Visit our Website: www.salesianmissions.org

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