

Summer/Fall 2019

SALESIAN®

***Saleians in
the Brazilian
Rainforest
- see page 2***



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Letter from the Editor



Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

As I read through this issue of SALESIAN, I noticed a rather unexpected theme: isolation.

Around the world, so many impoverished and marginalized children and families are physically or financially disconnected from the people, resources, and services they need to achieve their full human potential. Sometimes, it's both. And the effects of this deprivation – ill health, malnutrition, poor learning outcomes and more – can deepen when a person feels forsaken by society, community, or family.

That's why it warmed my heart to read about the bond between a precious little girl and one of our Salesian Lay Missioners in Bolivia (p. 7). Nicknamed “*Querida*” – and you'll see why! – this orphaned child expresses great joy, and is beginning to thrive in school, thanks to her mentor and caretaker Eden.

Eden's approach to her assignment embodies the missionary spirit that animates every one of our Salesians of Don Bosco – whose successes would not be possible without friends like you. When we work to improve the futures of indigenous peoples living in some of the remotest areas on Earth (p. 2), offer safe shelter to abused and abandoned girls in Togo (p. 18), and rescue homeless and frightened youth from Bangalore's streets (p. 23), we show them – through direct action and by modeling God's love – that despite their isolation, they are never truly alone. May God Bless You!

Sincerely,

Fr. Mark Hyde, S.D.B.

P.S. Throughout this issue, you'll discover several ways to demonstrate your compassion. 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 generosity makes a difference.



Please know that throughout 2019, 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.

I Am Here; Send Me: Salesian Missionaries in Amazonian Brazil

Following a rather tragic start in 1894, when the first Salesian missionaries to arrive in Brazil were massacred by members of the native Xavantes tribe in eastern Mato Grosso, the sons of Don Bosco have steadily and successfully grown their presence throughout the country – paying special attention to the needs of indigenous populations, and most especially the young.

Recently described by Pope Francis as “often forgotten and without the prospect of a serene future,” these peoples comprise more than 44 ethnic groups living in some of the most remote and inaccessible areas of Brazil and beyond. In more than 35 communities, Salesian missionaries offer vital social, spiritual, and physical support so that indigenous children and families can realize their full potential. By taking a humble, culturally respectful approach to this work, Salesian missionaries have become trusted





Mass for the faithful, although welcomed by the locals, is celebrated under the most rugged circumstances.

and beloved members of the tribes they serve, always willing to advocate for the rights, dignity, and respect of all.

In the past, certain outside forces have bristled at this steadfast support for social justice. On July 15, 1976, powerful Brazilian landowners assassinated Father Rudolph Lukembein, a German Salesian missionary, simply because he defended indigenous peoples and their rights to the land. (*Fr. Rudolph, along with fellow martyr Simao Cristino, is now being considered for canonization*). And yet, following the precedent first set in Mato Grosso, Salesians continue to embrace the missionary spirit in Brazil, undeterred by past or future perils. As Father P. Lázaro Santos says, invoking Isaiah: “I am here; send me.”

Working remotely: challenges and rewards

Born in Manaus, himself with indigenous roots, Fr. Lázaro first learned about the Salesians from his own father, who had attended a Salesian school. Later, while volunteering at Don Bosco for Minors as part of a vocational discernment experience, his provincial said some-

thing that left a lasting impression: “We need young people to work among the indigenous peoples of Rio Negro.”

Now serving among the Yanomami peoples who inhabit the Marauíá River delta in northwest Brazil, Fr. Lázaro arrived to his mission well prepared for the challenges of living and working remotely; as a novice, he had been assigned to Maturacá, where he spent a year teaching and ministering to indigenous children and families in perhaps the most isolated community of them all.

Today, his successors have assumed that mantle.

Getting to Maturacá requires three-days’ boat travel from Manaus, followed by an arduous 8-hour hike through the rainforest and a second, 5-hour motorboat journey across two rivers. There, two Salesian priests and two Salesian brothers operate a small school and parish for an estimated 4,000 Yanomami who live throughout the region in autonomous villages comprising between 50 and 400 immediate family members. In turn, these villages are often even further away from the mission center, requiring even greater travel by boat and on foot.

Unsurprisingly, the missionaries’ work isn’t easy. Every day, they struggle with the daily hardships of living in the remote jungle: exposure to tropical diseases, difficulty accessing proper medical care, the inability to easily communicate with the outside world or to receive news and information, among other challenges. And yet, they persevere.

“Our programs and services in Maturacá are comprehensive,” says Father Mark Hyde, director of Salesian Missions. “Missionaries focus on combating illiteracy and poverty; increasing access to basic education and pro-



Arduous motorboat travel to Maturacá is testament to the dedication of these missionaries.



Salesians follow the teachings of Don Bosco, but are always respectful of native culture.

fessional skills training; teaching people how to preserve the environment and live healthy lives; and, as much as possible, providing food, water, and other basic necessities.”

Because the costs of these services can be prohibitive, missionaries depend heavily on outside support. Funding opportunities range from purchasing gas to power the boats they need to visit remote villages; buying diesel to run the generators that supply electricity to schools; providing educational materials in Portuguese and native dialects for both children and adults; combating malnutrition, which is far too common, with daily meals and supplemental vitamins; covering modest salaries for teaching and administrative staff; and other vital necessities. “I know,

from hearing from these missionaries firsthand, how very grateful they are for the many kindnesses offered by our friends,” says Fr. Mark. “Costs in the rainforest are very small compared to those in the developed world, so every dollar makes a truly meaningful and immediate difference.”

Regardless of the many obstacles they face, Salesian missionaries remain faithful to their calling. For the past 43 years, as Fr. Lázaro reflects, “so many Salesians have dedicated their lives to this indigenous mission. Today we are a part of the history of these peoples. We have shown it is possible to all live in harmony, respecting the cultures of each other. We can share our knowledge if we are humble of heart.” ♥

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/brazil

What was once mud and tin...

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.

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

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Notes From the Field...

A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience

Lay Missioner: Eden Gordon

Mission Assignment: Bolivia

Lessons From "Querida," a Precious Child of God



My childhood dream was to participate in a mission abroad. When I heard about the Salesian Lay Missioners (SLM) program, I applied immediately – and very quickly discovered myself working at an orphanage for girls in Bolivia.

I was elated; I was living my dream! Yet, as always, the devil seeks to steal our joy. It wasn't long before doubt crept in: Am I actually 'doing mission' well? I wondered. Are my efforts worthy?

Sure, I work hard for the 17 girls, ages 2-7, under my care. I change diapers; feed them; bathe them; dress them; and tell bed-time stories. But mission is more than just service.



Eden with one of her "babies."

True caring helps form a most important feeling of security for these young children.

There's a spiritual element at work, too; or at least there should be!

I know so many wonderful people engaged in mission work in the U.S. and abroad, and so many of them experience meaningful spiritual connections with the people whom they serve. These missionaries provide religious education, engage in deep conversations, and sometimes they even bring others back to the Church. But I certainly don't have deep conversations with toddlers and young children. Was I missing something? How could I best serve my girls from a spiritual perspective, when so much of my job is rooted in pure practicality?

I brought these questions to God in prayer. And He offered His answer!

This orphanage where I serve divides girls into one of several



dormitories, based upon their age. I work with the youngest girls, ages 2-7. As we neared the end of the most recent school year, it became clear that one of the girls, living in a dorm for older children, was going to be demoted to mine. Her name was Veronica, and she had failed the first grade. The Sisters who run the orphanage believed she would benefit from being placed in a different setting, with a smaller group of girls.

While I agreed with the Sisters, the news hit my heart like a ton of bricks. I imagined how deeply this move would affect



such a sweet little girl. I remembered sobbing when I had received my first “bad grade.” I remembered the pain of moving schools and losing friends. I couldn’t imagine enduring such a failure so publicly, and without any parental support.

Time to be a missionary!

Before Veronica even stepped foot in my dorm, she became one of “my girls.” I prayed for her. I played with her. And every time I saw her, I gave her a huge bear hug, and begged, “Vero, when are you coming to live with me in our dorm? When are you coming? I’m waiting! I want you here so bad! How much longer do I have to wait?”

She always gave me her biggest smile as she assured me, “Soon, soon! I’m coming, I promise!”

We played this game almost every day, for two months, before Vero came to live in my dorm. When she finally arrived, she brought nothing with her – for she had nothing to bring. She simply marched in, glowing with confidence, and announced, “Eden! I am here now. I am here to live with you!”

I hugged her tightly and swung her around. I had never heard such a giggle, or seen such a smile. Mission accomplished! I thought. Months passed without any problems. I even forgot about our game!



Children like Veronica confirmed Eden’s dedication as a Salesian Lay Missioner.



Every night, as I put the girls to bed, I give them each a hug, a kiss, a fist bump and a high five. (Elaborate, I know, but they love it.) Months after Veronica had first joined us, she chose one particular night to pose an important question.

Like so many of my girls, Vero usually hugs me as hard, or as fast, as possible – but this time, she offered such a gentle, long hug, that I was taken aback.

Without letting go, she quietly asked, “Eden, you want me, right?”

You wanted me here with you. Right?”

Holding her tightly, I assured her, “Of course, Vero, of course. I love you, and I want you here!”

On the verge of tears, I wondered if anyone had ever told her this before. How could I ever have thought of my job as “purely practical?”

Later, as I lay in bed listening to the crickets, toads, and motorcycles that characterize a Bolivian night, I reflected on why I was really in Bolivia. And it is this:



Jesus sent his disciples to bring the gospel, or “*Good News*,” to the world. The Good News is that we are redeemed; we are loved; we are wanted by the only person who matters. And it is our job as Christians to teach others about God’s love by modeling it for the people we serve.

On the surface, my job in Bolivia is to take care of 17 rambunctious little girls. But now, thanks to Vero, I understand that my mission is to ensure that each one of them hears the Good News. Every person, and especially every child, has a right to know that they are loved, that they are precious children of God, and

that they are wanted!

Veronica is thriving in her new dorm; she is certain to finish this year well and advance to the second grade. Since that evening when she asked me if she was wanted, I’ve been calling her by a new nickname, Querida, which often translates as “Dear.” But for Veronica and me, it’s more than that. The word querida comes from the verb querer, meaning “to want,” or “to love.”

And so she is wanted, and loved. Just like you.

Now, go tell someone else. ♥

Eden

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:

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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



ANNOUNCED RECENTLY... Annuity rates have increased! Don't miss this valuable opportunity

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- Fill-in and return the form below.

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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 and San Francisco CA 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 Beautiful Gift: Transformative Experiences at *Le Salésien*

First established in 1962 as a seminary, *Le Salésien* (Salesian High School) in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada has grown into a vibrant secondary school comprising 750 students ages 12-17. As the first institution in the Sherbrooke area to have gone co-ed (in 1981), *Le Salésien* embodies an innovative spirit that persists today.



Faith is the guiding force behind the many works of Le Salésien.

In addition to a student-centered learning environment steeped in the values of gentleness, hope, and love – and facilitated through inventive

technological tools – educators seek to cultivate self-aware, independent, and compassionate young people who believe they can make a difference at home and in the world.

According to Father Alain Léonard, youth pastor at the school, these efforts succeed in part because of extracurricular opportunities that encourage students to test their comfort zones.

Bosco Bicycle

Since 1985, students who have completed their first year at *Le Salésien* have been eligible to participate in a weeklong summer bike tour covering 350 kilometers (165 miles) in Quebec.

“We may have been the first school to offer this kind of activity,” says Fr. Alain, who recalls the initial surprise expressed by its early witnesses. “People would see the students and say, ‘Who *are* these kids? And what are they *doing*?’” Outwardly, the students’ objective is obvious: pedaling bicycles from Point A to Point B. But it’s their inward journey, says Fr. Alain, that’s truly transformative. For the past 26 years, he has witnessed 12- and 13-year-olds begin their trip as children, and return as young adults.

Why? Because the trip teaches invaluable life skills, he explains. Under the supervision of experienced counselors, participants learn how cooperatively to plan routes, set up and dismantle camp, prepare and clean up after meals, perform minor bicycle repairs, and more. Organized into small groups of six students segregated by gender, girls and boys also develop





greater self-esteem through planned activities such as “Who are you?” In this session, held at the end of the trip, each student receives positive observations and constructive feedback from every other member of their peer group.

“It’s a beautiful gift,” says Fr. Alain. “When kids hear good things about themselves, you can see how proud they are.”

Older students who successfully complete two supervised trips may then participate in “autonomy camp” – a self-supported, 300-mile bicycle tour in the northeastern United States that further sharpens their independence and leadership skills. (Two adults do accompany these trips). Ultimately, many autonomy campers close the loop by becoming trip counselors themselves the summer after they graduate.

Jeunes Missionnaires Salésiens (JMF)

Launched 27 years ago, JMF (“Young Salesian Missionaries”) offers 16- and 17-year old students the opportunity to spend their 10-day spring break “experiencing Don Bosco in other countries,” says Fr. Alain.

At Nazareth House in Mexico City, a shelter for homeless boys ages 12-18, *Le Salésien* volunteers lead soccer and basketball games, organize field trips, hold tutoring sessions, and more. Most of all, he explains, they serve as positive role models for the boys, many of whom struggle to overcome addictions and to succeed in the classroom. “Our students inspire them to



Salesian missionary students serving in Mexico are happy to help where the need is greatest.



Each year, Le Salésien students selflessly raise money to donate to shelters in countries where they serve during their spring break.

study, to work hard, and to persevere in school,” he says. “It works in many cases because both groups bond and develop friendships through fun activities, and they remain in touch via Facebook after the trip. These ongoing, positive peer relationships really help boys living at the shelter to envision a better life for themselves.”

Students who volunteer at the Salesian-run shelter for homeless boys in Gressier, Haiti exert a similar positive experience. According to Fr. Alain, the soccer games they organize have become so legendary that the boys start asking, “When are the Canadians coming?” long before the trip is planned.

Each year, approximately 16 students accompanied by Fr. Alain and two adult chaperones volunteer in each location. In order to prepare, they spend six weeks learning about their host country and raising funds – \$18,000 collectively – to donate to the shelters.

When students return to school, they do so with an increased sense of responsibility toward those less fortunate, and often begin doing community service work.

“I am proud to say that Bosco Bicycle and JMF are two of the most important activities at *Le Salésien*, and they are under the responsibility of our very best students,” says Fr. Alain. “They have received so much through their experiences, and they want to give back.” ♥

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Salesian Snapshots

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

TOGO: Helping families feel loved

Located in the Gulf of Guinea, on the west coast of Africa, Togo is one of the world's poorest countries. Living conditions border on deplorable, with women and children suffering the most. "Solidaridad Don Bosco," a Spain-based NGO that works to build self-sufficiency and resilience among impoverished communities, continues to support Salesian programs in the country.

Recently, the organization partnered with local Salesian Cooperators to implement a program for at-risk young women and their children at "Mother Margherita House" in the capital city of Lomé. (Salesian Cooperators are lay Catholics living the Gospel message in the spirit of St. John Bosco.)

The project facilitates access to clean water through a new well and holding tank, and also provides shelter and educational support for young families in need.

In addition to their physical hardships, many of the affected children struggle emotionally. As one teacher explains, referring to Don Bosco's own words, *"it is not enough to love; we must make them feel they are loved."*



"Mother Margherita House" supports the wellbeing of young women and children.



ZAMBIA: Brighter futures ahead in Lufubu

In the rural village of Lufubu, Zambia, parents searching for work face little choice but to leave their young children at home, vulnerable and unattended during the day. A new Salesian Early Childhood Education Center has been constructed and is already addressing this serious dilemma.

Initially directed by Bro. Rob Malusa, with assistance from Salesian Lay Missioner Katie Stronsnider of the United States, the center provides a safe, healthy learning environment for more than 100 young children.

Salesian Missions donors, like you, helped fund the renovation of two existing classrooms and equipped them with age-appropriate furniture, supplies and learning materials to provide a strong foundation for future education.

Poverty is widespread in Zambia, but the Salesians are dedicated to help. "Access to quality education provides a stepping stone out of poverty for youth," says Father Mark Hyde, director of Salesian Missions.

The education they receive at the center will allow children easily to transition to a nearby Salesian primary school, followed by secondary school. There, the students can begin learning the skills they need to become productive members of society.

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/zambia



The Salesian Center offers many young children their only path to an education.

PERU: Growing up with music

Although Peru shows signs of economic growth, that reality unfortunately does not reflect in many of the country's remote villages. In the area of Calca, for example – a peasant community in the Andean Sierra – living conditions remain primitive, and inhabitants have yet to experience the positive effects of progress. Our Salesian missionaries are working hard to change this.



The emotional well-being that music provides will become an integral part of this Salesian education.

In addition to programs that serve more than 27,000 people living in 40 different rural areas, missionaries welcome 40 at-risk children at the Don Bosco House in Calca. Here, children have the opportunity to grow up in a familiar and cheerful environment, attend classes, and participate in sports activities.

Now, missionaries have a new idea: they want to start a music workshop for the children. The value of the project is twofold, both cultural and psychological: on the one hand, to help young people explore their roots through the study and the realization of folk songs; on the other, to enjoy the psycho-physical well-being that musical activities enable. The students will attend the course twice a week for two hours of lessons each time, so as to maximize all the benefits that this activity generates.

Your donations could help fund the needed instruments – traditional Pan flutes; triangles; wooden bass drums; and modern musical keyboards. The children of Calca are only waiting for someone to give them the chance to dream through music. ***Learn more at: www.SalesianMissions.org/peru***



GUATEMALA: Giving the Gift of Dental Health

This past Christmas, for dozens of impoverished kids in San Benito Petén, Guatemala, Santa arrived with a much different kind of bag – one carrying desperately needed dental supplies for themselves and their families.

“Santa” is Dr. Roberto Ceriotti, a benevolent and generous dentist from Brazil. And his workshop? Space donated by Father Giampiero De Nardi, a Salesian missionary serving in the city.

For several days during the holiday season, Dr. Ceriotti performed exams, cleanings and other dental care for those who otherwise could not afford it. In many cases, patients had never been to a dentist. Where more than 70 percent of Guatemala’s population lives below the poverty line (and the number climbs to more than 90 percent in indigenous areas), simple acts of humanity become priceless gifts.

Dr. Ceriotti, Fr. Giampiero and other Salesians manage significant achievements thanks, in large part, to the spirited kindness of many friends like you. Together, you help our missionaries throughout Guatemala offer medical care, social services support, basic and secondary education, vocational training opportunities, and much more. As we reflect on the celebration of Jesus’ birth, we are grateful for your compassion, which truly embodies His gift to the world. ♥



The special “Christmas gift” of dental care for poor children in Guatemala.

Share the Joy of Christmas and the New Year...

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Our new and very popular publications – our “2020 Angel Datebook” and Christmas book, “The Birth of Christ” – are now available. Each book comes with a mailing envelope so you can send them to friends and loved ones.



Share the joy and inspiration of the Christmas Season and the New Year. Send your request today for these beautiful books.

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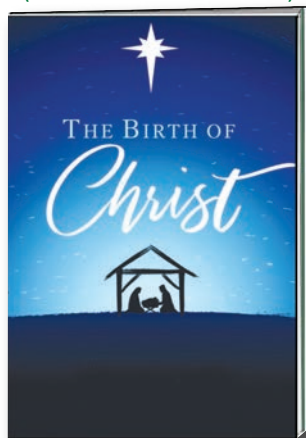
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The Heartwarming Story of Lokesh



Little Lokesh Kumar was just seven years old when he found himself at Bangalore's main railway station, forced to pick rags and beg in order to feed himself. The competition was harsh – in Bangalore, roughly one million girls and boys suffer the same desperate existence. Many begin abusing inhalants, glue and drugs as a way to curb their hunger and dull their despair. Fortunately for Lokesh, he found his way to BOSCO – a Salesian-run program for street kids that has rescued more than 120,000 children during the last 35 years.

Every five minutes, a vulnerable girl or boy arrives alone and frightened at a train station in Bangalore, one of India's biggest cities. *Every five minutes!* Some of them are simply lost, with no ability to find their way home. Others have been abandoned. Many have fled poverty and violence at home. But all share one thing in common: they are on their own, without a caring adult to turn to. No one to hug them, wipe their tears, or assure them that everything is going to be okay. Instead, these children struggle to survive amid the daily chaos and nightly peril, susceptible to trafficking and virtually defenseless against exploitation and abuse.

Society pretends they don't exist. And sadly, many of them begin to feel unloved – that is just how Lokesh felt. But because of the support he received in a safe and loving Salesian family environment, Lokesh is now an accomplished actor, artist and singer. Thankful for his second chance and proud to be a former “BOSCO boy,” Lokesh returns to the street children's program regularly, “giving back” and setting a positive example of hope and encouragement to other girls and boys like himself. Lokesh's story expresses the true potential of even the most disadvantaged children, reminding us that they, too, deserve a chance for a brighter future – something the Salesians never forget. ❤️



At BOSCO Bangalore, Salesians and staff offer a 24 hour presence on the streets to rescue children like Lokesh.

"We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2

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Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation of Christmas. Sign up for our Advent Devotionals and each week during Advent, you will receive a special email with daily Scripture passages and inspirational messages. These reflections will guide you toward a more joyful anticipation of Christmas - and reconnect you to the true reason for the season.



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The Simple Gift of Water

Water projects funded by donations to Salesian Missions, New Rochelle NY, are providing two villages in India access to clean water through the Salesian “Clean Water Initiative.” The Marathwada region in the state of Maharashtra often suffers from drought-like conditions leaving villagers without water for cooking, drinking and proper sanitation. The newly funded projects will help to desilt wells and canals, repair or replace new water piping, and install new water tanks.



In the village of Kolhewadi in the Ahmednagar district, funding also helped pay for digging a new bore well, 20 feet of casing pipe, and the installation of a submersible pump. The project also provided a new water tank that holds 5,000 liters of water, new fencing and required plumbing.

In Pimpalgaon Ghat in the Beed district, the project entailed 1,500 meters of new pipe lines as well as fixing current piping, and the installation of a submersible pump. This project also funded a new drinking water tank for the residents of the village.

“The construction of these water projects will greatly impact residents of the villages and provide them better access to clean, safe water for drinking and cooking,” says Father Mark Hyde, executive director of Salesian Missions. “Having access to clean water brings a sense of dignity to people and also reduces the number of water borne illnesses.”



With more than 1.2 billion people, India's growing population is putting a severe strain on the country's natural resources. According to Water.org, close to 77 million people do not have access to safe, clean water and 769 million have no sanitation services. Most water sources throughout the country are contaminated by sewage and agricultural runoff.

While India has made some progress in the supply of clean, reliable water, there remain gross disparities in safe water access across the country. The World Bank estimates that 21 percent of communicable diseases in India are related to contaminated water. Diarrhea alone causes more than 1,600 deaths daily. Access to proper sanitation is extremely poor, particularly in rural areas where only 14 percent of the population has access to an adequate sewage system. Thankfully, with your help, our Salesians will continue to give poor people healthier, decent lives with the gift of clean, safe water. ♥



These life-saving projects are just a few of the several highlighted on our Salesian Missions website that needed funding. To see the full list, go to SalesianMissions.org/projects

To give to the Clean Water Initiative, go to SalesianMissions.org/water

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

- **Combat illiteracy and poverty in the Amazon.** In the remote community of Maturacá, Brazil, just a few Salesian missionaries offer education and basic necessities to 4,000 indigenous children and families. Your generosity helps provide modest teachers' salaries and classroom materials, daily electricity, food, water, medicines, and more. *See p. 2.*
- **Provide a crucial head start.** With support from our loyal friends, more than 100 impoverished girls and boys are able to attend a new Salesian Early Childhood Education Center in Lufubu, Zambia – where they begin to build a strong foundation for their ongoing education. *See p. 19.*
- **Brighten kids' smiles.** More than 70 percent of Guatemala's population lives below the poverty line, without access to even the most basic preventive care. Can you help us improve children's dental health through free clinics like Dr. Ceriotti's? *See p. 21.*
- **Rescue a child from the perils of the street.** As many as one million orphaned, abandoned, lost, and runaway children battle homelessness, hunger, exploitation, and despair in Bangalore, India. Together, we can give them the opportunity for a much better life. *See p. 23.*

GRANT A WISH REPLY FORM

SUM/FALL 2019
WL (RF)

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:

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____ for the life-saving works featured in this magazine and all the other Salesian programs that benefit the needy.

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FREDERICK BAKKEN, POYNETTE WI

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
MARCH 31, 2019
KATHLEEN VILLAREAL, PRESCOTT MI

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
APRIL 30, 2019
MR. RAY MALONE, SR., FALLING WATERS WV

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
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