

Winter/Spring 2020

SALESIAN®

*The Salesians
in Nepal
- see page 22*



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.

Please remember Salesian Missions in your Will...



SALESIAN MISSIONS

2 Lefevre Lane, PO BOX 728, New Rochelle NY 10802-0728

TEL: (914) 633-8344

• www.SalesianMissions.org/giving

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page.

On the Road to Recovery! 3

Notes From the Field:

A personal account by Salesian
Lay Missioner, Matthew Nguyen . . . 5

Salesians of Our Lady of the Valley
Parish, Orange, New Jersey 10

A Joyous Occasion! 14

Salesian Snapshots 17

Adventure of the Spirit... in Nepal . . 22

The Story of Adriana 26

EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE!

It is filled with even more stories and photos of all the good works YOU help make possible.

So keep visiting us at:
www.SalesianMissions.org

See you online!

 www.facebook.com/FindYourMission

 www.twitter.com/SalMissions

 www.instagram.com/salesian_missions





Letter from the Editor



Sadly, this is my last letter to you...

Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

As Ecclesiastes reminds us, *To everything there is a season.* After serving for nearly 12 years at the helm of Salesian Missions, it is now my time to transition into an exciting new role – and pass the mantle to my very capable and creative colleague, Father Gus Baek, S.D.B.

We've accomplished a lot together, and I feel remarkably privileged to have witnessed the many fruits of your loyal friendship. Around the world, countless children and families have pulled themselves out of poverty and built better lives for themselves because you believed they could. In this issue of SALESIAN alone, you'll discover tangible evidence of your compassion that will warm your heart! Alongside our thousands of dedicated missionaries and lay volunteers in more than 130 countries around the world, I am confident your generosity will continue to make a positive difference for many years to come.

Although I won't be here in New Rochelle, I will continue to watch, support, and pray for the exceptional things Salesian Missions accomplishes each and every day. Please join me in welcoming Fr. Gus into his season as director of Salesian Missions, and know how grateful I am for the opportunity to have served you.

May God bless you!

Fr. Mark Hyde, S.D.B.

P.S. Throughout this issue, you'll discover several ways to support our mission. Whether it's a chapel built 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 2020, 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.



Dear Friends,

Humbly, and with great appreciation for Father Mark's dedicated service, I introduce myself to you as the new director of Salesian Missions.

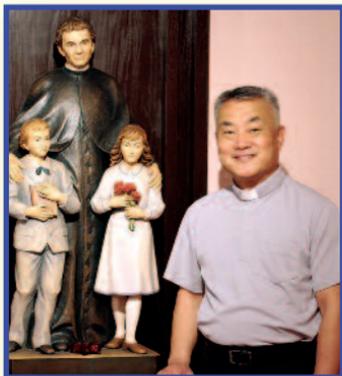
I have some big shoes to fill as I assume leadership of this wonderfully effective organization – which has so much to do with my predecessor's vision and direction. I am grateful for the solid legacy Fr. Mark has built, and promise that I will steward it to the best of my ability in the way our loyal and generous friends undoubtedly expect.

First and foremost, stories like the ones that appear in this magazine will continue to show you how your partnership is helping to save lives. I am so inspired by the remarkable successes made possible when good-hearted people like you join forces on behalf of those in need!

I look forward to getting to know you in the weeks and months to come, and hearing your ideas on how we can work together to achieve our common goals. In the meantime, if you are inclined, I ask you to say a prayer for Fr. Mark and for me, that each of us may fulfill our new assignments in continued faith.

Sincerely,

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.



To make a gift to help our mission children in honor of Fr. Mark and to welcome Fr. Gus, please go to: www.SalesianMissions.org/Fr.Mark





On the Road to Recovery!



Nataly, now 19, came into this world two months premature in a very poor area of Pesillo, Ecuador. Being born too soon, along with other complications of her mother's pregnancy, meant that Nataly's legs and feet were improperly formed – conditions requiring specialized care that her mother struggled to afford.

Nevertheless, Nataly's mother did take her for some rehabilitation; but when Nataly was two years old, her mom died and she was left in the care of her father. What little healthcare she had received, stopped. It wasn't until she was nearly four years old that

Nataly began walking – quite tentatively – which prevented her from playing and developing alongside other children her age.

Nataly's problems increased when her father went to live with another woman, and entrusted the child to her grandmother – a very poor old woman who could not take proper care of the little girl's health.

Fortunately, two years ago, a caring aunt took Nataly to the Salesian clinic in “Mitad del Mundo,” where she had an X-ray and was seen by a specialist. She had a tumor on her left leg and had to undergo surgery. Fifteen years had passed since Nataly had seen any doctor, and the family had to raise funds for her surgery. But the Salesians also supported her

so that, working together, this young girl received a new lease on life.

Following her surgery, Nataly started attending the Salesian clinic for rehabilitation, and soon began walking better and without pain. She can even run now, and feels safer and more stable on her feet. Moreover, therapy has helped her relate to other young people her age, and every day she is grateful for the Salesians and the help and hope they have offered.

Thanks to the Salesians, and their tireless work in healthcare and education, Nataly now leads a normal life, and serves as a bright example for other children living in difficulty in her country.♥

The beauty of the Cayambe volcano (seen from Nataly's town) belies the poverty and needs of the people.





Notes From the Field...

A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience

Lay Missioner: Matthew Nguyen

Mission Assignment: Papua New Guinea

**It's not what we do,
but how we do it!**

“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” - John 13:35



When we first signed up for this, we didn't know what we were doing, really. We had just graduated college; all we knew was that we wanted to do something – we just didn't know *what*. We were excited to learn about all the work that needs doing in our country, in our Church, and especially in our lives – but it also made us wonder even more, *what can we do?*

Orientation in New Rochelle, though a transformative and incredible experience, didn't necessarily train us specifically for what we would actually be doing on



Matthew Nguyen (second from right) with a fellow SLM celebrate with the locals at a parade.

mission, either. So we said a prayer, hopped on a plane, and arrived in Papua New Guinea, a country I didn't even know existed until a month before we left (Stephen, my fellow Lay Missioner, knew because he was a political science major; I majored in psychology).

An elderly Italian priest sitting on a porch chair welcomed us with, “*Nem blo yupla!*” – a phrase we would be repeating many times over. I responded with our names, “Matthew and Stephen!” We had learned just two days before, in the capital city of Port Moresby, that it meant, “What is your name?” Or, literally, “Name belong you?” in Tok Pisin, the local language.

We got to work right away. Our first task was to register the names of all the boarding house residents for our new home, Don Bosco Technical Secondary School. I was a resident assistant for my college dorm before, and Stephen was a campaign manager for dozens of door-knockers, so logging information for 200 boys came almost as second nature to us. Not only did we learn their names, but a little bit about their various cultures and backgrounds. We still didn't know what we were doing for the year, though.

After the boarding house business settled down, we met with the rector for the first time, who asked us an important question, “So, what do you want to do?” We had no idea. We were at a school without any teaching experience in a country without a stable internet connection: what could two millennials accomplish? For starters, the rector suggested that we offer religious education to students in grades



A happy group of children gather in front of the local church in the district where Matthew volunteers.



9 and 11; teach English and math for the 10th graders; and supervise overnight retreats for the whole school. It was a start to say the least! We had both led retreats before, both were baptized and raised Catholic, and we knew enough English and math to teach the basics. We had no idea what we were doing, but we were doing it.

We discovered very quickly that the boys had free time to play sports and participate in other extracurricular activities. Without knowing what our role was to be, Stephen was soon on the basketball court while I was playing guitar with some boys in the chapel. It worked, so we kept doing it every day! We had no idea what we should be doing, but we were doing something!

Our assignment in PNG is now winding down, and we've been doing things for a while now. Eventually, we joined the pastoral council team and helped to organize school-wide events including masses and prayer services. We helped boys receive their first sacraments in the Church. We contributed our knowledge of politics and psychology and taught basic introductory topics to the Salesian pre-aspirant young men. We've slept in the dorms as supervisors; taught guitar to future musicians; coached basketball and volleyball; shared stories about the world we've seen; and learned about the world they know. We've led a dozen retreats, planned leadership camps, and Stephen even learned how to

drive a manual car! Boys have come to us with their questions about the faith, and questions about life, too. We try to answer them as best as we can; again, we still have no idea what we're doing, but we're getting there.

As the disciples left for the world, carrying nothing but the love of God in our hearts and the Good News of Salvation to all people, we too



Education forms the foundation of Salesian work.

are called on the same mission. We might not have been able to get these boys' grades up, but I hope we raised their spirits high. We might not have been able to build a church, but I hope we've been able to *be* the Church.



Mass celebrated in the open air.

Stephen and I didn't know what we could do; we were mediocre college grads with little to no real plans for the future. But if mission has taught us one thing, what we know now is this, and this only: it's not what we do, but how we do it. Love has and will lead the way. Don't be afraid to not know. And don't be afraid to follow. ♥

*God bless you all,
Matthew*

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



Don't Miss this Valuable Opportunity!

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 6.9%, 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, Ana 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!

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 \$ _____

FOR SINGLE ANNUITY (PLEASE PRINT):

(Not available in the state of Washington)

Name _____

Date of birth _____ Sex _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

WE CANNOT SEND INFORMATION WITHOUT DATE OF BIRTH

FOR JOINT ANNUITY (PLEASE PRINT):

NAME OF OTHER PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH _____ DAY _____ YEAR _____



**SALESIAN MISSIONS
FINANCIAL PLANNING OFFICE**

ATTN: ANA MARIA LANG
2 LEFEVRE LANE, PO BOX 728,
NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728

WIN/SPR
2020 AN



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!

Salesian Presence Influences the Young

Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Orange, New Jersey

Sometimes we take for granted the impact the Salesian presence can make in the lives of the young. Our Lady of the Valley parish in Orange, N.J., is so proud of what many of our youth and lay collaborators have accomplished, thanks to their openness to the Salesian charism. In their own words, let us hear how Don Bosco has influenced two of them.

Jackie Rivas:

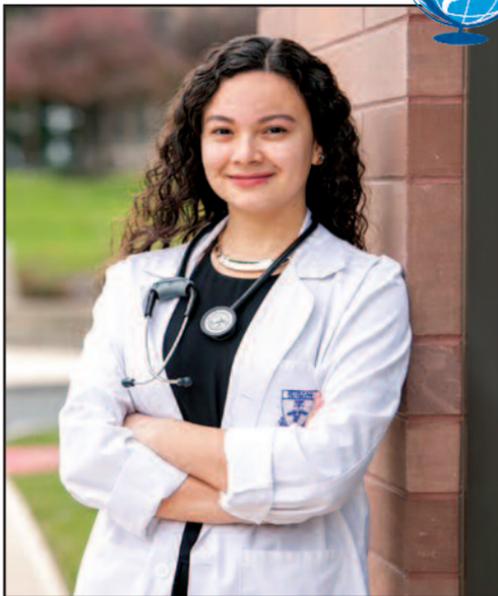
Growing up in a Salesian parish has been a tremendous blessing. When I moved to Orange, N.J., I was 11 years old, and I started to attend the youth center on Friday nights. I was a very shy and timid kid, but the Salesian Brothers always made me feel so welcome and comfortable. As I started to get to know them, I quickly got involved in many of the parish's activities. I loved attending camp in the



summers, youth group, the soup kitchen, altar serving, and even receiving my Confirmation.

The years quickly went by, and before I knew it, it was time to apply to college. I knew exactly where I wanted to go: Seton Hall University. Not only did I want to attend their intensive nursing program, but I also knew that I would see the Salesian Brothers there, and it provided an environment that would enrich my faith.

Now 23, I have known the Salesians for more than half my life – and they have had a tremendous impact on me. I have grown immensely in my faith, I've grown into a servant leader, and I've undertaken tasks I never thought I could do. For example, in the summer of 2014, with the help of Fr. Vince [Paczkowski] (may he rest in peace), I created the Don Bosco soccer program for high school students. The local Salesian youth center provides a safe environment where students share their love of soccer, but it is also a place



Jackie Rivas

where they practice how to be good Christian role models. I never thought I could quickly grasp the attention of high school students, and I learned that I had an amazing ability to interact with kids, which led me to become more involved in our youth ministry program. I clearly remember the wonderful experiences I made when I went to Salesian Leadership Retreat* and Gospel Roads**, which is why I love taking our Our Lady of the

Valley students to both. We've even had some of them attend twice and participate in leadership roles as young team members.

Thanks to my parish, youth ministry has been instilled in my blood. Two weeks ago, I graduated from Seton Hall University with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and I've never felt so free! I am currently studying for my boards, but I'm also in the middle of helping plan for our summer camp and our youth ministry programs. There's always a lot to do in Orange, and I am thankful for the Salesian family God has given me.

Jesus Rosas:

My journey at Our Lady of the Valley Parish began about 12 years ago, when I started going to Spanish Mass on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. with my sister and mother. I wasn't familiar with Mass, and I didn't understand why we had to go to Mass; I went because my mom went.

Fall came, and one of the Salesian Brothers from the formation house told me about the activities that took place on Fridays at the youth center. I

showed up the next Friday and fell in love with it, so much so that I started going every week. Eventually I found myself being more interested in the Salesian family and who Don Bosco was. So, my mother signed me up for Sunday school, and eventually I made my First Communion and received Confirmation.

Our Lady of the Valley Parish means the world to me, and I have lots of fond memories with the Brothers there. I have participated in many activities and field trips, I went to summer camp, and eventually I became a volunteer for the summer camp. I joined the youth group and attended Salesian retreats. The Brothers took me to my first-ever basketball game. The OLV community became my second family, my home away from home, and a place I loved to be because I felt loved by the Salesians.

That unbreakable love is one of the many reasons why I am still there today. They've taught me about a great man named Don Bosco and how he spent his life helping the less fortunate kids who didn't have much or didn't



have families. Don Bosco inspired me to help out as much as I can, when I can – which is the reason I participate in Salesian retreats so I can learn to spread Don Bosco's love and joy to those in need!

This summer I am part of Gospel Roads in New York. It's a great pleasure, honor, and blessing to be part of the Salesian community of Our Lady of the Valley Parish! Now it's time for me to go away to college and put into practice all I have learned from the Salesians.

* **The Salesian Leadership Retreat** invites a select number of students from various Catholic high schools and parishes that have demonstrated an interest in Salesian spirituality. Each retreat brings together about 75 people, including returning retreatants who serve as young team leaders, and committed lay people and religious in the joyful spirit of St. John Bosco. Through prayer, faith sharing, group activities, silence and the sacraments, young people are challenged to see themselves as active members of the Church and the world, called to serve others.

** **Gospel Roads** is a service retreat for young people ages 16 to 25. The program is coordinated by the Salesian Youth Ministry Office in New York, in collaboration with local ministries in the eastern United States, Canada, and Central America. Each Gospel Roads program is unique, but all include serving the poor, living in community, and meeting Jesus through prayer. ♥

***For more information about these two events, visit:
salesians.org/youth-and-young-adult-ministry***



Jesus Rosas

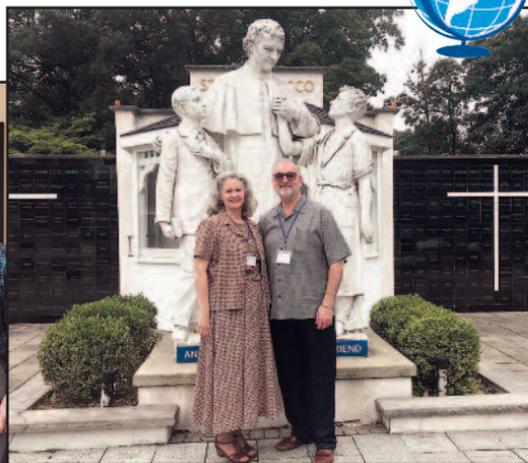
A Joyous Occasion!



Salesian Brothers publicly professed their perpetual vows during this special Salesian family gathering.

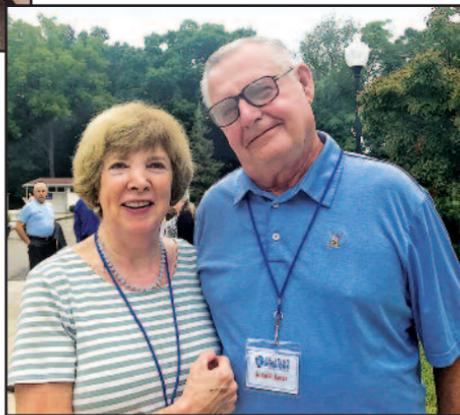
On Saturday, August 17, our 2019 Annual Salesian Family Celebration took place at the Salesian National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians in Stony Point, New York – and what a joyous time it was!

Our mission director, Fr. Mark Hyde, greeted Salesian Family guests who then attended a High Mass of Perpetual Obligation introducing four Salesian Brothers – Leonard Carlino, S.D.B., Sasika Lokuhettige, S.D.B., Ky Nguyen, S.D.B., and Charles Craig Spence, S.D.B. – who publicly professed their perpetual vows. Along with a great number of Priests, Brothers and Sisters, we were blessed to have in our presence a new group of lay missionaries. Earlier that week, they attended their commissioning Mass and were initiated to begin their missionary journeys throughout the world! For all of the Salesian Family and those of deep faith, it was truly a moving experience.



Friends and supporters of Salesian Missions enjoying this special day at the Marian Shrine.

Following this most beautiful and sacred Mass, our celebration continued with the four newly professed Salesian brothers, their family members, lay missionaries and the entire Salesian congregation sharing a summer luncheon that combined faith, camaraderie and a great sense of solidarity with the Salesian way of life.



Many thanks are extended to our Provincial, Fr. Tim Zak, S.D.B., who welcomed everyone with love and gratitude, as well as Fr. Jim McKenna, S.D.B., Director of the Marian Shrine, who once again so graciously accommodated us. ♥

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.

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.

Is now this!

Thanks to generous people like you!

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



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

WIN/SPR 2020 CH

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.

PLEASE CHECK ONE: **IN MEMORY OF:** **IN HONOR OF:** **DEDICATED TO:**

NAME: _____

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

Name _____

Address _____ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

 **SALESIAN MISSIONS** 2 LEFEVRE LANE, PO BOX 728 • NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728
TELEPHONE: (914) 633-8344 • Email: chapels@salesianmissions.org

Salesian Snapshots



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



*A young Indian boy gets an eye exam at the
Salesian free health camp.*

INDIA: Health camp for families of Wadala slums

Mumbai's Don Bosco Development Society recently organized a free health camp for women and children living in the slums of Islampura in Wadala. During the event, volunteer doctors, nurses and paramedics visited 131 patients to examine their eyesight, address anemia, and distribute vitamins, medicines, and ointments. Patients expressed gratitude for the camp – just one of many programs the Don Bosco Development Society offers on behalf of those in need.

BRAZIL: Salesian campaign helps 100 families

Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora, a Salesian Institute in Aracaju, Brazil, collected and distributed humanitarian aid to families affected by recent heavy rains and flooding in the area. According to the Institute's pastoral office, the initiative mobilized employees, teachers, collaborators, students, and parents who – for eight days – tirelessly delivered non-perishable food, clothes, drinking water, diapers, sheets, and even toys for children. In total, about 100 families benefitted.



Salesian volunteers traveled for eight days delivering goods to the needy.



Don Bosco Fambul's mission is to rescue child soldiers, orphans and street children.

SIERRA LEONE: Saving one child at a time

Salesian missionaries at Don Bosco Fambul have been working on behalf of Sierra Leone's most vulnerable children since 1998. Amid the country's brutal civil war, the Salesians



started programs to rehabilitate former child soldiers and assist girls and boys left orphaned and homeless by the conflict. Today, Don Bosco Fambul is one of Sierra Leone's leading child welfare organizations. Led by Father Jorge Crisafulli and a dedicated staff of 120, most of whom are social workers, the organization is renowned for their unwavering work on behalf of at-risk youth – including children orphaned during the Ebola epidemic, and those victimized by natural and man-made disasters.

URUGUAY: Pop artist immortalizes Don Bosco

In Salto, a huge mural of Don Bosco commands one of the city's major arteries. Painted by one of Uruguay's famous artists, José Gallino, the mural – which was commissioned to celebrate the centenary of Nuestra Señora del Carmen – measures 20' x 32' and stands right next to the main entrance to this Salesian-run college.

Mr. Gallino, 33, is close to the Salesian world. He studied at María Auxiliadora, a Salesian boarding school; his brother attended Nuestra Señora del Carmen; and his mother is a catechist, and his father a past sacristan, in the Cathedral of Salto. Thanks to Salesian schools, young people like José are able to realize their full potential. ♥



The talent of José Gallino is evident in this striking painting of Don Bosco.



Your Love and Generosity Help Give Him a Decent Life...

With your compassion, your heartfelt prayers and your generous financial support, we are making a tremendous impact in the lives of needy children in more than 130 countries around the globe. **St. John Bosco**, our founder, said, “**Without you I can do nothing,**” and his words still ring true today. Together we can help make the world a better place.

PLEASE CONSIDER THESE UNIQUE WAYS TO PARTNER WITH US

Bequests - Bequests via your Will or Revocable Living Trust allow you to leave a significant legacy to Salesian Missions. Since bequests are deductible for federal estate tax purposes and subject to an unlimited deduction, gifts through your Will or Trust can save you and your heirs estate taxes and allow you to make a much larger gift.

Retirement Accounts - Qualified retirement plan assets are the most tax-burdened assets you can own. Many people do not realize that if they die with no surviving spouse, any remaining balance in their qualified plan will be subject to multiple levels of taxation that can claim 50% or more of its value. Indicating Salesian Missions as the beneficiary is an option.

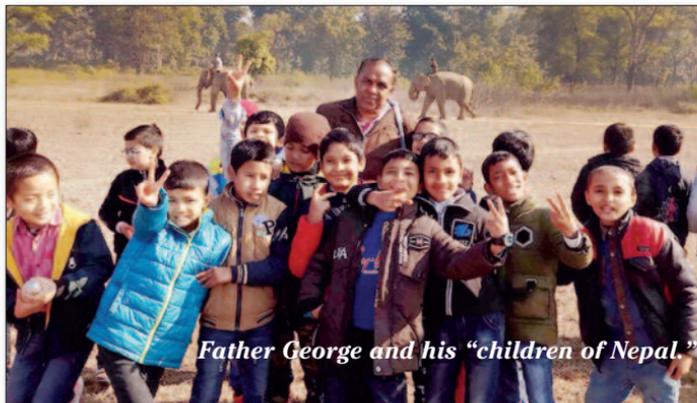
Life Insurance – You may find that giving life insurance can provide you with an efficient, affordable way to achieve your philanthropic goals! It is easy to name Salesian Missions as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. There are even other creative tactics for using life insurance as a gifting option.

These are just a few unique ways you can partner with us and make a meaningful impact in the life of a poor child. If you would like more information about these special gifting opportunities and other Planned Giving options, please contact our Stewardship and Mission Specialist:

Liz Cahn, Tel: 914-500-1409
lizc@salesianmissions.org

Adventure of the Spirit... in Nepal

by Fr. George Thirumalachalil, SDB



Father George and his "children of Nepal."

NEPAL is home to eight of the world's tallest mountains. Everest, the highest, continues to allure tourists with its mystic beauty – and challenges adventurers to conquer its unassailable heights. Nepal is a country of myths and legends, of gods and mystics, of tropical jungles and icy snow mountains. It is a nation of unaffected villages and terraced countryside. Eighty percent of its population depends on the land for their survival.



The story of the Catholic Church in Nepal is the story of a mustard seed's growth. The seed is only beginning to sprout, even though the faith first came to these mountains 300 years ago. Today, the Catholic



population across Nepal is about the size of an average parish: a little more than 7,000 Catholics in a country of 28 million people.

Don Bosco, in one of his dreams, saw a line drawn from Kolkata, India to Peking, China – and all along that line, he envisioned the Salesian presence. In 1992, when the pioneering Fr. George Alakulam, S.D.B. first led a group of young, enthusiastic “Messengers of the Good News” to Nepal, part of Don Bosco’s dream began to come true. And just as it was for Don Bosco, who first began his work in a Pinardi shed, so, too, was it for the Messengers – who launched Don Bosco Nepal in a two-room rented house on the outskirts of Dharan, a town in East Nepal.

These Messengers went around visiting the sick, assisting the poor, and gathering the “scattered sheep.” As the Salesians had nothing to call their own, Fr. Antony Sharma, ecclesiastical superior of Nepal, offered them a plot of land close to town where a small three-bedroom house was soon built. It was blessed on December 8, 1992.

Salesians from other provinces, especially from Bangalore, also



The Salesians always respect the traditions and cultures of those in their missions while still offering spiritual, educational and moral guidance.



joined in this adventure in the Spirit. With limited knowledge of the language, and little understanding of the culture, these early Salesians forged ahead with a number of activities: teaching classes for neighborhood children; opening a computer center for school dropouts; and running an oratory and a boarding school for at-risk youth. By the close of the last century, the Messengers had successfully extended Don Bosco's spirit and mission.



In 2017, the Salesian mission in Nepal celebrated its silver Jubilee with prayer services, speeches, and other special programs. But when the celebrations were over, the decorations removed, and the guests had all gone home, a feeling of emptiness remained: that the adventure in Nepal had still not taken off as Don Bosco would have wanted. The scarcity of Salesians, the lack of funds, the need for a common vision and action plan, and political and constitutional turmoil in the country were just some of the challenges the Salesians faced in Nepal. In a letter addressed to the Salesians in India, Rector Major Ángel Fernández Artime invited them to participate in *“an adventure of the Spirit ... in Nepal.”*

The adventure is on! Plans are in place to launch the Salesian presence in Tulsipur, West Nepal, which will ultimately include an oratory, an educational institution, a technical school, a boarding school for boys and girls, a vocational training school, and a parish center.

But dreams need wings to fly. Projects need funds to take off. We have faith that God has already found the means we need to accomplish our mission in Nepal. I know in my heart, that you and our other good friends will support us and pray for us, in this ***“Adventure of the Spirit... in Nepal.*** ♥

To learn more about the Salesians in Nepal, visit: SalesianMissions.org/Nepal

A Transformative Experience: The Story of Adriana



At just 17 years old, Adriana had already endured displacement, destitution, and discrimination. She had slept on the street, begged for money, and engaged in petty theft. The emotional scars of her experiences ran deep, but all were about to be healed – a journey that began at Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco in Rome.

It was 2013, and Adriana had been referred to the Child Reception Center there for a job training program: an opportunity she never could have imagined as a young nomad



Roma girl – whose misunderstood customs and lifestyle excluded Adriana and her family from mainstream society. As they moved from country to country in Europe, searching for a place to feel welcome, she and her siblings struggled to learn the local language, make friends, or receive a basic education during the brief periods of time they were in school.

“Roma life,” Adriana explains in a recently published story in Vatican News, “I never liked it, because it is a difficult, hard life, and as a teenager it is even harder. At times, I felt hopeless.”

One day, after converting to Christianity, Adriana’s mother decided to leave the constant upheaval, the poverty, and the lack of social support behind, in favor of integrating her family into regular Italian life. Soon, Adriana began school in the district of Casal Bruciato, where – together with staff at Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco – teachers organized

broad-based assistance to get the family on its feet. And that’s how Adriana landed at the Child Reception Center.

Beginning with literacy training and Italian-language classes led by the Salesians, Adriana worked toward her middle school diploma while dreaming of a career as a chef. Thanks to the Salesians’ relationships with local employers, she secured an internship at a small café, where she learned the ins and outs of the kitchen while developing social skills that contribute to employability.

Today, thanks to this transformative experience, the now 23-year old Adriana supports herself, her mother, and her younger siblings with the income she earns working in a local bakery. With Don Bosco’s invisible hand holding hers, she has successfully leapt from a life of despair, into a future of hope.

“I made that jump and I’m happy!” she says. ❤️

**CURRENT
SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
JUNE 30, 2019
FAYE CRAWFORD, PHILADELPHIA PA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JULY 31, 2019
FLORENCE BOLL, PALM COAST FL

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
AUGUST 31, 2019
LAREN HESSON, CHESAPEAKE VA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
BRENDA GUISSINGER, GONZALES LA

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
OCTOBER 31, 2019
(TBA)

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
NOVEMBER 30, 2019
MS. TONI BALES, PICKERINGTON OH

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

**Join us in
Anticipation of
Easter!**

Lent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation of Easter.

Sign up for our FREE Lenten Devotionals and each week during Lent, you will receive a special email with daily Scripture passages and inspirational messages.

These reflections will help guide you and lift your spirit as the Resurrection comes to light.

Sign up now at:
www.SalesianMissions.org/Lent



He is Risen

