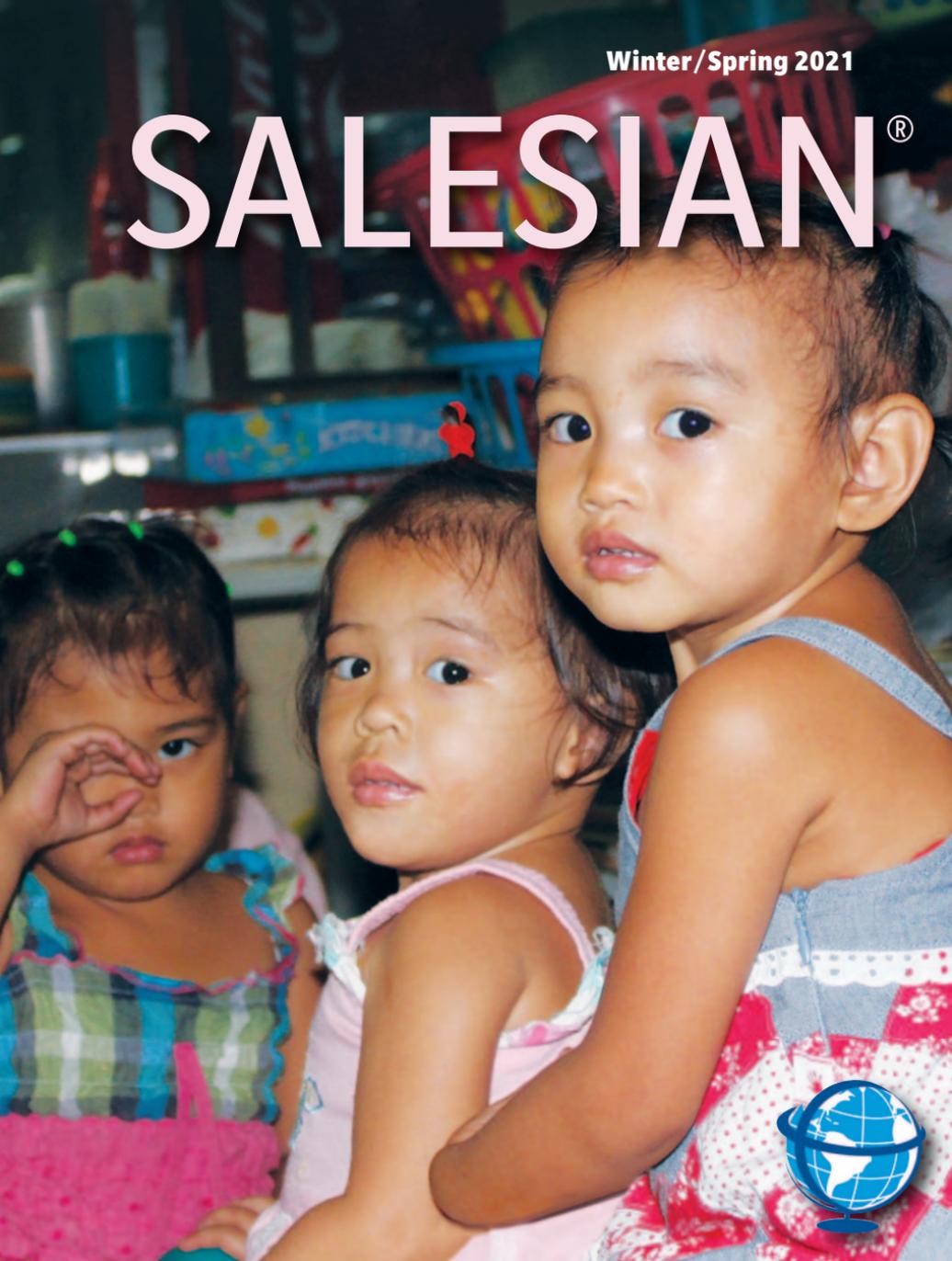


Winter/Spring 2021

SALESIAN®



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.

Success! Thanks to Salesian Automotive School	3
<i>Notes From the Field:</i>	
A personal account by Salesian Lay Missioner, Abbie Nolan	5
A 92-Year Mission Serving the Poor in Port Chester, NY	10
The Gift of Decent Housing and Nutritious Food	14
Salesian Snapshots	17
School for the Blind has New Chapel Thanks to Salesian Donors	20
The Garbage Dump is Their Home . . 24	
Hope for Those Still Suffering in Syria . 27	

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



Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

It hardly bears repeating that 2020 was a year of extraordinary challenges – for our missionaries, for the children and families they serve, and for loyal friends like you.

And yet: It was also a year of unprecedented generosity.

It truly humbles me to say that without fail, whenever we asked, you responded – with a concrete compassion that ignited our resolve and sustained our mission. During a time when it could have been easy, and certainly understandable, to turn inward, you chose to reach out: generously, and with your prayers. And the results are measurable.

Despite a devastating global pandemic, and the critical ongoing response it demands, our Salesians on the ground are still rescuing vulnerable children from the despair of the street, still teaching marginalized youth the skills they need to become self-supporting adults, still supporting impoverished families with life-changing resources and support, and still confidently making plans for enhancing and expanding life-saving services to reach more people in need ... thanks in large part to you.

You can read about some of our programs and plans in the following pages. And when you do, I hope you'll find the same abundant joy that our returned volunteer Abbie Nolan discovered in her service abroad. (You can read Abbie's story beginning on page 5). Together, the sky is truly the limit when it comes to what we can accomplish, together in 2021 and beyond.

With sincere gratitude,

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.

P.S. Throughout this issue, you'll find a variety of ways that your support makes a difference and how you help our missionaries to persevere. Please visit salesianmissions.org for even more stories of your compassion in action, including additional ways to get involved.



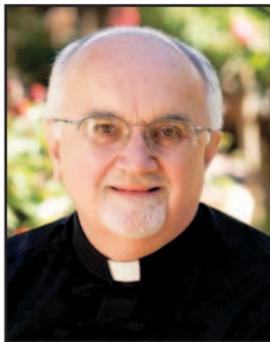
Please know that throughout the year, Masses will be offered for you and our other partners in mission at the Basilica of Jesus the Adolescent in Bethlehem and here at our Salesian Missions Chapel.

Fr. Tim joins Salesian Missions!

I am so happy to greet all our readers of SALESIAN magazine! My name is Fr. Timothy Ploch, a Salesian of Don Bosco for 55 years and a Salesian priest for 44 years.

Our Provincial, Fr. Timothy Zak, has asked me to join Fr. Gus and help out here in the Salesian Missions office and I do so with great joy and enthusiasm. I was about to retire this year, but God in his mercy has opened up this new path for me.

For the last 6 years I served as Regional for Interamerica, a region comprising all Salesian presences from Canada down to Chile. As such I had the great honor to be a member of the Salesian General Council in Rome, assisting the Rector Major, Fr. Angel Fernandez, 10th successor of St. John Bosco, in the government of the entire Salesian Congregation. The General Council would meet in Rome twice a year, for a 2 month period each time.



Therefore, the other 8 months of the year I had the enormous privilege of traveling all through the Interamerica Region. I was humbled to see how much good work our Salesian family is doing for the poorest and most needy young people in schools, parishes, boarding schools, technical preparation institutes, and so much more. I was able to witness first-hand our work with street kids in the big capitals of Medellin and Quito, and our very difficult presence among the poorest of the poor in Venezuela, Bolivia and Cuba.

But what captured my heart more than anything else was to see our work in the missions of these countries where we serve so many indigenous peoples. I saw our work for the Mixe people in Mexico, for the Q'echi people in Guatemala, the Shuar and Ashuar people in Ecuador and Peru among others. I was always so impressed by the lives of sacrifice our missionaries are living there, so passionate about improving the lives of the young and instilling in them the love of Christ.

So I bring all that firsthand knowledge of our Salesian missionary work here to the Salesian Missions Office. I look forward to learning more about our missionary sites, and also encouraging us all to be Salesian missionaries in our own way!

I join Fr. Gus in thanking you for making our mission... your mission!

Fr. Tim



Success! Thanks to Salesian Automotive School



Fakir Petersen is a car enthusiast from Ottery in Cape Town, South Africa, who joined the Porsche Mechatronics Technician Programme at the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) in its opening year.

This exciting project was launched in 2017 with the first pilot class of twenty-one male and seven female students enthusiastically beginning their two-year course.

Coming from a meager background, Fakir never dreamed that he would be able to pursue a career in the automotive industry. He found out about the Salesian course through his high school. “This was such a good opportunity to be trained, and to have a possible opportunity to work with premium vehicles and top-class trainers. My mother was so proud and my family very excited,” says Fakir. “This was an experience of a lifetime and on top of it I made lifelong friends.”

“The Salesians were always there for us – showing us the way and motivating us to go beyond what is expected from us. My communications skills have improved and with my newly acquired technical skills I can now help people in our community if they experience car troubles. I really loved the high voltage

training; it is so relevant today and gives us an advantage in the automotive industry. I want to get my formal qualification as a technician one day. I aspire to progress in my career and become a master technician, maybe move onto service manager perhaps. I have learned that dreams can become reality if you persist.”

We asked Fakir what his advice to the new intake students would be and he answered without hesitation: “The key to success is to focus on goals and not obstacles. Never forget that you learn more from failure than from success. Speak your goals into existence. I will always be thankful to the Salesian Institute Youth Projects for this experience and this amazing opportunity”

Fakir is now employed at Audi Centre Cape Town. We wish him all the best! ♥

For more information, visit: SalesianMissions.org/porsche-partner





Notes From the Field...

A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience

Lay Missioner: Abbie Nolan

Mission Assignment: Cambodia

“In Salesian schools, kindness is a norm and the role of the educator is to journey alongside their students as they develop standards for success. I resonated so deeply with that mission and the holistic approach to education, and knew from then on that I was right where I was supposed to be.”

– Abbie Nolan

Since 1981, the Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) program has trained and deployed over 350 generous volunteers to serve in more than 20 different countries.

From health care workers to youth ministers, each SLM has cared for some of the most destitute children, families, and communities around the world. In return, they receive immeasurable rewards. As



Abbie (right) with her much-loved students in front of the school.

returned SLM Abigail “Abbie” Nolan explains, volunteers “find true presence and joy” in their experience.

In this issue, we’re pleased to highlight Abbie’s story.

DISCERNMENT

I was raised in a faith-filled family with a commitment to community service, and always felt a call to give back. But it wasn’t until I enrolled at Saint Anselm College that I fully understood what that meant – or how best to do it.

There, I became involved with the university’s Campus Ministry program which ultimately led me to become a Salesian Lay Missioner serving abroad.

As an undergraduate majoring in International Relations and English, I enthusiastically immersed myself in the practical applications of this knowledge. I taught at an after-school program for immigrant, refugee, and under-represented high school students from the area; led service trips to New York City, Costa Rica, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and rose to become vice president of Koinonia Society, the service-oriented Catholic sorority I belonged to.

As graduation approached, I considered what might come next.

I’d dreamed of teaching English in another country since traveling to Barcelona in high school. When one of my campus ministers connected



*In the words of Abbie (top right),
“I was blessed to be their teacher.”*



me with another student, Grace Anderson, who had served as an SLM in Cambodia, I understood that I could combine my affinity for service with my dream to live and teach abroad in a truly meaningful way.

Joy

Following a successful application and orientation, I arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and was welcomed into the vibrant Teuk Thla community, which comprises 15 Salesian Sisters (FMAs) serving across four sites. Together, these Sisters educate and care for more than 1,000 youth, ranging from kindergarteners to university students. Their mission is to provide poor students with holistic, quality educational opportunities that will empower young women to actively engage in building better futures for themselves, their families, and their country. My primary role was to teach English to students at Don Bosco Vocational Training Center for Girls: Food Technology and Hotel Services.

As a graduate of an all-girls Catholic high school and staunch advocate for single-sex education, I was over-the-moon with my assignment. I taught two daily classes, tutored an FMA aspirant, coordinated an online English program at the high school, and ran informal English classes for university students who boarded at Teuk Thla.

My students filled my life with an almost indescribable amount of joy each day. I was blessed to be their teacher.

GRATITUDE

Just six months into my year-long assignment, COVID-19 sadly cut my service short.

I've heard that leaving your service site in general can feel like a loss, but the suddenness of our departure amplified that loss. I miss Cambodia, but am so grateful for the time I had there.

I'm also grateful for an unexpected silver lining – I am finishing my SLM year in New Rochelle, NY, where I currently intern in the Salesian Missions Office of International Programs.

Given my interest in the field of international development, this is a

great opportunity to better understand how development organizations work, and see if this is truly the career path I might want to take!

So far, I've written proposals for a COVID relief project in Italy, and a program to deliver excess resources to programs around the world – including Cambodia.

While I may not be physically on-site with my students, I pray they continue to feel my positive presence from across the world. ♥

*God bless you all,
Abbie*



Saying goodbye is never easy – Abbie with her beloved Salesian Sisters at the airport.

To learn more about Cambodia, visit: SalesianMissions.org/cambodia

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 5.4%; at age 80, the rate is 6.5%, and at age 90, the rate is 8.6%.

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
2021 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!

A 92-Year Mission Serving the Poor in Port Chester, NY

Westchester County is perhaps the most affluent area of New York. Nestled in the heart of the scenic Hudson River Valley, with a population of nearly one million people, its residents fuel New York City's economic engine: working in the upper echelons of finance, technology, bioscience, and other in-demand fields. County-wide, the median household income is more than \$96,000 – nearly 30 percent higher than the national median.

Yet, these statistics – and the perceptions they conjure – don't tell a complete story. According to U.S. Census data, about 8.5 percent of Westchester residents live at or below the federal poverty level, defined as an income of \$26,200 for a family of four in 2019. As many as 40 percent of its residents fall into the category of "working poor" – those whose incomes are higher than the federal poverty level, but still aren't enough to keep up with the costs of daily living. Today, 11 percent of Port Chester's residents fall into the category of "abject poverty."



This is why the Don Bosco Community Center exists. First established in 1928 to serve the needs of Port Chester's poor immigrant youth and their families, this vital institution has functioned as the hub of the Salesian presence there ever since.

According to Dr. Ann Heekin, executive director of the Center, early programming focused on family gatherings and job skills development for adult men. "It was a gathering place for families to experience communal support, to eat together and pray; and a place where men could develop skills that might land them a job and their families an income," she says.

In the decades since, the Center has continuously evolved along with community needs. Following a brief closure for economic reasons in the 1980s – an event Heekin deems "a blessing" – the Center re-opened with a new emphasis on serving Port Chester's youth. With a burgeoning parish community, including a new generation of children attending elementary and high school, Center staff realized the need to provide safe, supportive



Young people helping in the food pantry while learning skills that may lead to future employment opportunities.

after-school programming during the time that parents were at work. Beginning with the Don Bosco Boys and Girls Club, which offered opportunities for youth to learn the skills they needed to find jobs in the restaurant industry, this programming has grown to meet the diverse needs of the youth it serves and their families. (Currently, some services are temporarily suspended due to the pandemic while others continue with appropriate protocols in place ... including online commu-

nity events. All will fully reopen as soon as it's safe).

Core services

Since the beginning, missionaries and staff at the Center have operated the Don Bosco Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry as core to their mission of enabling all people to live healthy and productive lives. Open daily and bi-weekly, respectively, these programs have served 35,000 individual meals, and welcomed 450 households, during the past 12 months alone.

In the tradition of St. John Bosco, these programs intend to nourish recipients both physically and spiritually – through access to daily bread as well as the Bread of Life. Breakfast and lunch is served at the Soup Kitchen, groceries through the Food Pantry, and clothing, books and toys through the associated Children's Closet.

Café Alma

Chef Rafael Palomino runs this innovative after-school program, which trains 14- to 19-year-



Carlos plans a career in law after being accepted into the Don Bosco Scholars College Prep Program.

olds in a full range of culinary skills. And, as with many Salesian-run programs, the curriculum extends far beyond the classroom and into the practical realm. “Students truly experience the benefits of the skills they acquire through partnerships with local chefs,” says Dr. Heekin. Often, chefs who provide their expertise during the training are among those who hire its graduates.

Don Bosco Computer Lab

Recently, the Don Bosco Center opened a new computer lab to help disadvantaged youth learn the necessary computer skills required for future employment. The new lab squarely places



Don Bosco on the leading edge of computer instruction for area youth. Both boys and girls are taught the latest and most sought after computer job skills by young professionals.

Don Bosco Scholars

This program specifically supports first-generation Port Chester youth in achieving their dreams to attend college. A personal mentor guides each participating Scholar and family through the application process, including ACT prep, essay writing, college visits, financial aid, and more.

Early Childhood Bilingual Program

This foundational program helps 3- and 4- year old children with Spanish as their first language develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in both Spanish and English.

The Don Bosco Center includes many other opportunities, too – including an annual scholarship-funded summer camp that offers meals, sports, academic, and enrichment activities for youth ages 7-14.

“Our evolution toward academic achievement has opened a new, exciting role for the Don Bosco Center that will position youth from some of our most disadvantaged families for long-term success,” concludes Dr. Heekin. “It’s an honor to move this institution forward using the same values that Don Bosco embodied as he served poor street children in Turin, Italy.” ♥

For more information on the Don Bosco Center in Port Chester, NY visit donboscocenter.org.



The wellbeing, care and education of children is always at the core of every Salesian program.

The Gift of Decent Housing and Nutritious Food



Construction of the sturdy, new homes.

When COVID-related restrictions reached San Benito Petén, Guatemala early last summer, they negatively affected the area's already-struggling families the most. That's why, in accordance with all safety precautions, our Salesian missionaries forged ahead with plans to assist those in need.

First, they successfully continued a project initially launched in 2018 to improve living conditions among impoverished residents. In total, the project built and donated 20 new houses to families who had previously lived in shacks constructed from sheet metal, plastic, and scraps of wood.

As Father Giampiero de Nardi reports, the simple yet decent houses have been life-changing for recipients.

"One thing especially struck me," he says, "and that was to see men cry when the house was handed over to them." In a traditionally



patriarchal society like theirs, he explains, men view tears as a sign of weakness. “To see someone cry tears of joy and gratitude, is something truly powerful.”

Father Giampiero also noticed a tangible sense of joy and pride among the program’s beneficiaries. Many immediately planted flowers in front – something



A grateful family stands proudly in front of their new, safe and secure home.

they hadn’t done in their previous living quarters. “They recognize the new house is a precious gift, and should be embellished with flowers,” he says. “It’s an interesting sign that their life has changed.”

Missionaries also provided ongoing food assistance to more than 100 vulnerable families in the parish. Funded by and working with



The Salesians were also able to supply many families with life-saving food supplies.

other Salesian Mission offices and humanitarian organizations, the initiative enabled missionaries to assemble and distribute bags of groceries to those in desperate need over a period of four months.

While the challenges of the global pandemic remain hard to predict, one thing is certain: Salesians in Guatemala refuse to let it interfere with putting their mission into action! ♥

***To learn more, visit:
SalesianMissions.org/guatemala***

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 we need your help so we can deliver them into the hands of poor children and families who need them the most.



YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

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... and the overseas shipping cost would be only \$5,000.

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 2021 DE

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

ENCLOSE CHECK, MONEY ORDER (PAYABLE TO: SALESIAN MISSIONS) OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:

   CARD NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SIGNATURE _____

EXP. DATE (MO/YR)

--	--

CID# REQUIRED (Last 3 digits on signature panel on back of card)

Name _____ Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

MAIL TO:  **SALESIAN MISSIONS** 2 LEFEVRE LANE, PO BOX 728 • NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728

Salesian Snapshots



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



Villagers proudly display the healthy
fruits of their labor!

EAST TIMOR: Blessings from a Salesian garden

The bustling Salesian presence in Los Palos consists of a parish, prenovitiate, orphanage, and a busy oratory. Since the beginning of the pandemic the Salesians have decided to use every possible square meter of land available for agriculture. The harvests are so abundant that, in addition to meeting the needs of the children and their families, the remainder is being sold at the local market. The Salesian community believes that “it’s very important that our young people, some of whom will one day be Salesians, learn that patience, hard work and daily commitment will, in every sense, truly bear fruit.”

To learn more, visit: SalesianMissions.org/east-timor

INDIA: Needy families receive aid

At the campus of the Salesian “Don Bosco Matunga” center in Mumbai, poor families received much needed first aid kits this past October. Also, the Don Bosco Development Society has launched a new Covid-19-related aid project to be

carried out in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. The program is managed by the “Don Bosco Mondo” Salesian Mission Office in Bonn, Germany. 20,000 very grateful poor, needy children and their families will



First aid kits and cleaning supplies were eagerly accepted and appreciated.

now receive long-term food rations, cleaning items and hygiene kits.



Construction of the wells that now supply life-sustaining clean water to the most needy.

BRAZIL: Clean water for indigenous families

The “Ambulant Mission Assistance” project is an initiative of the Brazil-Campo Grande Province. It provides technical support



to Salesians working in missions with indigenous populations, especially with the Xavante and Boe-Bororo ethnic groups. The working group of the project, led by Salesian Brother Alois Würstle, constructed 6 artesian wells in the villages of Campinópolis and Aldeia Corpo de Cristo in the fall of this past year. They are life-saving due to a serious lack of clean water in the area. Over 50 families have benefited from the new wells.

To learn more, visit: SalesianMissions.org/water

NIGERIA: Don Bosco sports complex inaugurated

The Don Bosco Sports Complex was inaugurated this past September, at the Mary Help of Christians community in Lagos, Nigeria. The sports complex is intended to be a center of Salesian joy and recreation for everyone, residents of the neighborhood or not, with volleyball, basketball, lawn tennis and soccer fields. The vision of Don Bosco and his loving mother, Mamma Margherita for the young are clearly visible in the structure. Thanks to the support of Missioni Don Bosco ONLUS, the Province of Anglophone West Africa, and their Planning and Development Office, and YOU, young people now have a true and proper facility in which to play and grow. ❤️



*Don Bosco believed that children should
have fun alongside an education.*

School for the Blind has New Chapel Thanks to Salesian Donors



Students attending the Amalarakkini School for the Blind in India have a new chapel thanks to generous Salesian Missions donors. The School for the Blind is located in the town of Tiruvannamalai in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Prior to the construction of the chapel, students and teachers had to be transported by hired vans to weekly Catholic Mass, which was very costly. The new chapel will be a source of spiritual support to these students right on their campus.

The School for the Blind is a residential school established in 1980 to provide education, rehabilitation, life skills and vocational training

skills for children who have visual impairments. Missionaries help these young students have independence and a better quality of life.

Along with caring for very young children, the Amalarakkini School also has a higher secondary school for the blind, which is well-equipped with special aids for students with visual impairments, a library filled with Braille books and specially trained teachers. Students are able to access regular academic courses, in addition to physical education and orientation and mobility training.

The Salesians run many programs across India, primarily focused on education. Salesian primary and secondary education in the country helps youth prepare for later technical, vocational or university study. Other programs help to support poor youth and



The consecration of the new Salesian chapel was joyfully attended by students and families.



The parish priest and guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



A wonderful procession to celebrate the opening of the new chapel.

their families by meeting the basic needs of shelter, proper nutrition and medical care.

India has the world's fourth largest economy but more than 22 percent of the country lives in poverty. About 31 percent of the world's poor children live in India, according to a report by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

"We are grateful to our donors who have provided Amalarakkini School for the Blind a new chapel on school grounds so students and teachers no longer have to travel for church services," said Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. *"This is one more example of how Salesian missionaries in programs around the globe initiate projects that help aid inclusion of people with disabilities."*

On October 17, 2020, the beautiful new chapel was consecrated. Nearby community Salesian Priests, Brothers, Sisters, parishioners, visually impaired children, and well wishers graced the function.

This is the first chapel erected in the diocese of Vellore. *The community is filled with joy and are ever thankful for the love and generosity of the good people in the U.S.A. for making this possible.* ❤️

To learn more about our chapel program, visit: SalesianMissions.org/chapels

What was once mud and tin...



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

You can have a Memorial Chapel built in honor of your favorite saint and dedicate it to anyone you wish – living or deceased.

What a wonderful way to remember a loved one – and help the Lord's most impoverished followers.

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 \$18,000.00 to build a Village Memorial Chapel. WIN/SPR 2021 CH
 Enclosed is my gift of \$23,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in a remote and difficult area.
 Enclosed is my gift of \$28,000.00 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 _____

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Address _____ 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

The Garbage Dump is Their Home



Thousands of orphaned, abandoned, and abused children live on the streets of Luanda, Angola – many in the district of Lixeira, which literally means “garbage dump.” Despite having names like Paulo, Dulce, and Esperança, there is nothing sweet or hopeful about their existence. Surrounded by refuse, dust, and the harsh realities of having to search for food while fending off gangs, traffickers and violence, it’s nearly impossible to escape despair.

That’s why, since the early 1990s, Salesian missionaries serving in Luanda have paid particular attention to homeless youth. Each evening in Lixeira, with help from a nurse and educator, they conduct direct outreach: offering food, medical attention, and other individualized support. Those who are willing can enter a Salesian-run shelter and participate in school – an outcome that is particularly close to our missionaries’ hearts. With 45 percent of Angola’s population under the age of 15,



access to quality education is critical for their, and their country's, success – yet it remains out of reach for so many. Just 20 percent of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 receive a secondary education.

Sadly, skyrocketing inflation and the effects of the pandemic are further pushing Angolan families deeper into poverty – which means the number of street children in Luanda continues to rise. Yet our missionaries refuse to give up. With adequate precautions in place, they continue their direct outreach, social reintegration programs, educational initiatives, and other wraparound services. Recently, they added a health information campaign to this work, designed to help youth understand the dangers of COVID-19 and how to prevent it. They have also established a separate emergency shelter to welcome at-risk children and keep them safe from the virus.

Happily, the data show that these ongoing efforts are paying off. In 2019 alone, for instance, 237 youth ages 7 to 18 successfully left the streets of Lixeira. Thanks to the holistic support provided by our missionaries, and the compassion of donors like you, children like Paulo, Dulce, and Esperança are now in school, taking the first important steps toward building better futures. ❤️

Discover more! Visit: SalesianMissions.org/mama-margherita

Hope for Those Still Suffering in Syria



For nearly ten years, innocent civilians in Syria have suffered the devastating consequences of their country's ongoing civil war. Thousands have died. Millions have fled. And those left behind still urgently need humanitarian support.

Then the global pandemic struck – landing yet another cruel punch in the lives of struggling families. Food costs have skyrocketed amid stringent lockdown restrictions, and people can't afford even the most basic necessities. Education – well known as one of most effective strategies for lifting families, communities, and nations out of poverty and violence – is once again crumbling under the stress. Few students are equipped to learn from home, which means many of them are falling further and further behind.

As they have since war first erupted, Salesian missionaries serving in Syria remain steadfast in their support of children and families during this most recent crisis. From three centers in Kafroun, Aleppo, and Damascus, they provide food, financial assistance, and educational support. In true Don Bosco spirit, they have also established two new programs for students struggling with remote learning. The first will help 200 elementary school children, while the second will benefit 180 high school and university students.

“It is important that we remain supporting the people in dire need in Syria,” says Father Pier Jabloyan, director of the Salesian Center in Aleppo. “Even in the face of the global pandemic, we will remain focused on our mission of helping poor youth and their families.” ❤️

**CURRENT
SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS**

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
JUNE 30, 2020
MRS. BARBARA RIZZO, BRADFORD MA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JULY 31, 2020
FREDA M. ORAVETZ, CATASAUQUA PA

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
AUGUST 31, 2020
MS. JOYCE A. MARHEFKA, TRENTON NJ

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
MS. SONIA GOTTHARDT, KEY WEST FL

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
OCTOBER 31, 2020
MS. ELAINE TIHEN, KENOSHA WI

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
NOVEMBER 30, 2020
KATHLEEN KELLY, COLLINGDALE PA

WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY...

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

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

Attn: Donor 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

