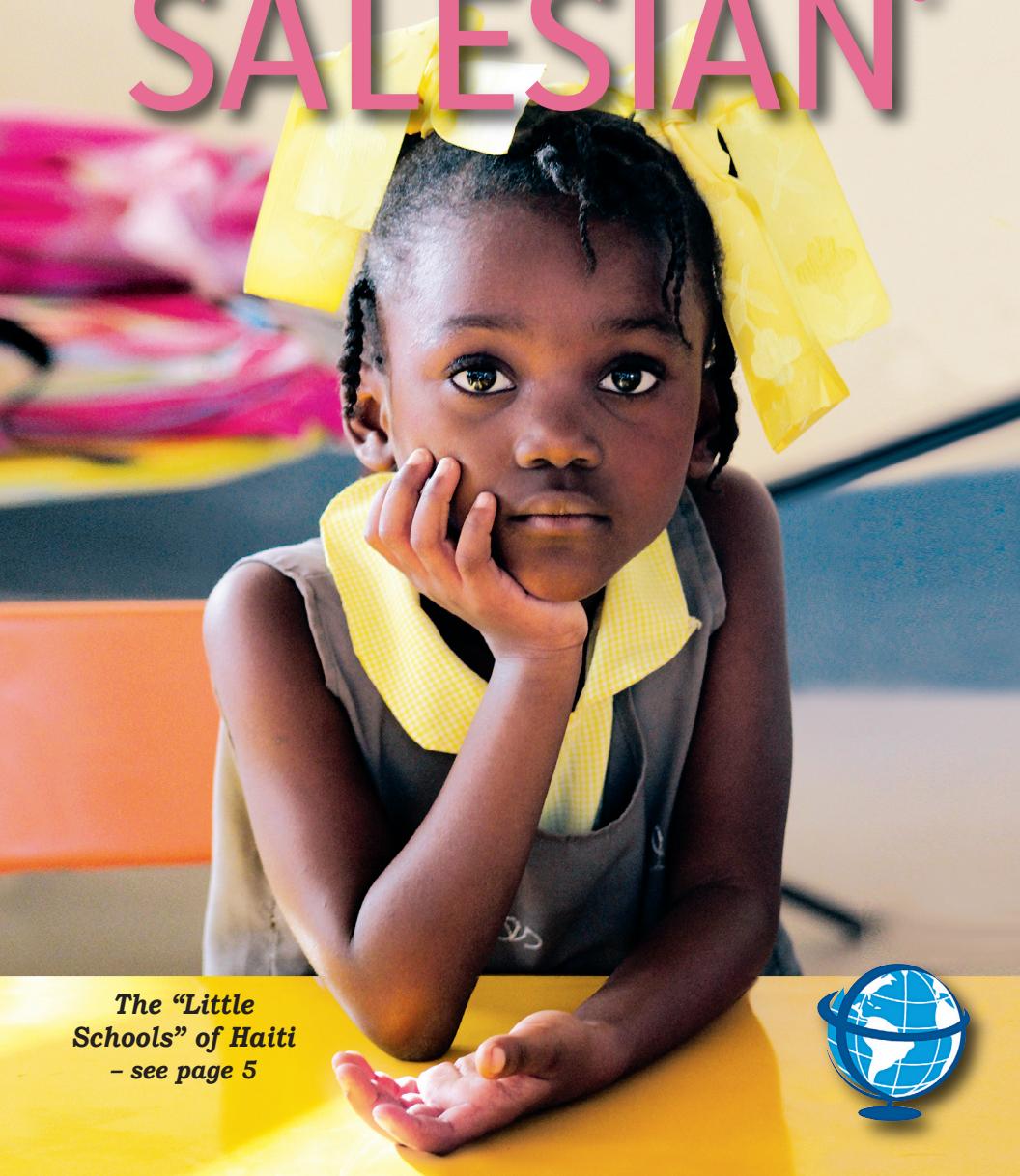


Summer/Fall 2020

SALESIAN®



The "Little
Schools" of Haiti
- see page 5



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.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page.

Amid Pandemic, an Enduring Spirit of Charity	2
Giving Thanks for Haiti's "Little Schools"	5
<i>Notes From the Field:</i> A personal account by Salesian Lay Missioner Katie Church	9
Don Bosco Cristo Rey, Washington, DC	13
Salesian Snapshots	18
The Story of Pappu	22
From Hunger to Hope	26

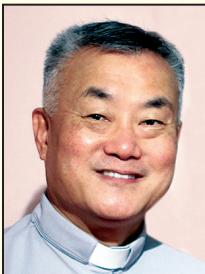
EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE!

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

The website homepage features a banner with a child eating from a bowl. Below it, a section titled 'GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD' encourages donations for starving children. Other sections include 'Giving hope to millions of youth around the globe' and 'Innovative Technology to Teach'.

So keep visiting us at:
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-  www.twitter.com/SalMissions
-  www.instagram.com/salesian_missions



Letter from the Editor



Dear Friends,

Like the songbirds that return in springtime, chirping out their melodies of rebirth, hope sings its song no matter what.

And *you* provide the sheet music for its refrain.

During this ongoing global pandemic, our Salesian missionaries persevere because of compassionate friends like you. When you continue to support our work around the world – programs and services that extend into more than 130 countries, and reach millions of children and families every day – you prove that **today's challenges do not erase tomorrow's promises**. In fact, maintaining continuity of our programs creates hope for a brighter future – something the world's most vulnerable people so desperately need right now.

That's why our missionaries are still nourishing hungry children (*see p. 26*); are still rescuing homeless kids from the streets (*see p. 22*); are still educating impoverished youth (*see p. 5*); and so much more.

And of course, for as long as necessary, our dedicated missionaries will continue to lead the COVID-19 response in their own communities – in innovative and uniquely Salesian ways. You can read more about that in our powerful story on page 2.

I hope the stories in this issue of SALESIAN will lift your spirit as they have mine. Thank you for being part of our global chorus of hope!

With sincere gratitude,

Fr. Gus Baek, 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. May God bless you for all the good you do.



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.

AMID PANDEMIC, AN ENDURING SPIRIT OF CHARITY

When no one else dared, Salesian Fathers Angel Carbajal and Pedro Da Silva ventured into the Castile landfill in Piura, Peru. Bearing food parcels, health supplies, and their compassion, the two men tended to the forgotten children and families living among the trash heaps – despite the risks of COVID-19. **Why?**

“Because it’s what Don Bosco would have done,” says Father Carbajal, simply.

That touching refrain has echoed around the world as our Salesian missionaries have vowed to help the poorest of the poor during this terrifying time of global pandemic.

Drawing on more than a century and a half’s experience of living through wars, disasters, and other emergencies, these dedicated men and women know exactly what needs to be done – and have mobilized to address the most pressing needs.

“Our missionaries truly are front-line workers in their own communities,” says Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “In times of crisis especially, they provide essential goods and services to those who are suffering the most.”

Because the hardships of mandatory confinement disproportionately impact those already struggling with poverty, unemployment, and social isolation, Salesian missionaries have focused significant efforts toward



The Don Bosco Community Center in Port Chester, NY provides meals and masks to the area's needy families.



relieving those burdens, including:

Emergency food relief

Stay-at-home orders can mean having nothing to eat, so missionaries have organized food collection and distribution campaigns in hundreds of communities worldwide – and have even traveled great distances on foot in order to reach the most vulnerable.

In Yercaud, India, for example, they carried bags of groceries to 100 elderly and physically disabled individuals, and 200 families, scattered across 15 tribal and mountainous villages. In the time since, and assisted by dozens of community volunteers, these missionaries have been expanding food assistance to meet burgeoning demand.

Clean water

More than ever, vulnerable children and families desperately need clean water for their everyday survival. Providing clean water has become a critical part of our missionaries' response to the pandemic.



In Syria, Salesians and volunteers produce masks at the Salesian Oratory in Aleppo.

In Haiti, for example, missionaries have placed buckets of chlorinated water outside every Salesian community so people can wash their hands. And in Ethiopia, they have repaired a tanker truck and are using it to haul water to thousands of people living in Addis Ababa's slums.

Hygiene supplies

The most marginalized people are often the ones least able to practice social distancing or proper hygiene. That's why our missionaries are creating and distributing health and hygiene kits, which include soap, liquid hand wash, and face masks, to migrant workers, day

laborers, orphans, refugees, and other highly vulnerable populations.

In Venezuela, for instance, Salesians at Red de Casas Don Bosco in Caracas offer these kits alongside the nearly 700 daily meals they serve to poor and abandoned children.

Education and prevention campaigns

Because so many people can't afford or even obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) or hygiene supplies, missionaries are also producing and disseminating crucial educational materials to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For example, in the indigenous Amazon region of Brazil – an area far from any hospital and lacking in basic medicines – the Salesians have created messaging in the Xavante language that explains the virus, how it spreads, and how to protect against it.

And speaking of PPE ...

In their own uniquely Salesian way, missionaries have launched a variety of innovative programs that simultaneously teach marginalized



In Pakistan, the Don Bosco Technical & Youth Center distributes food to needy families.

youth and adults relevant, marketable skills while addressing critical shortages for medical professionals and other essential workers. In one poignant example, formerly delinquent youth at the Magone Home Aftercare Program in Cebu City in the Philippines are manufacturing face shields for law enforcement officers with whom they once clashed.

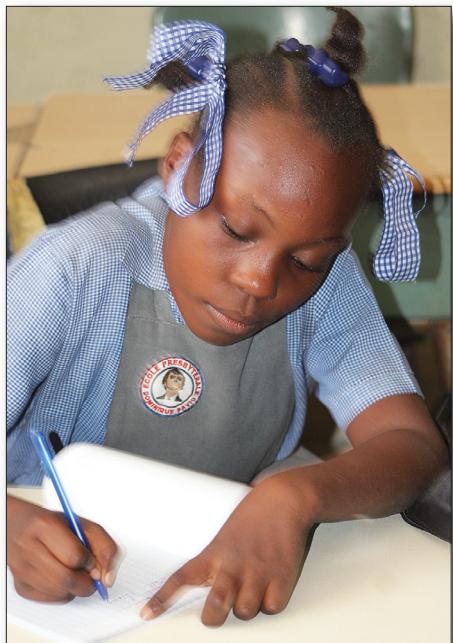
“These projects truly represent a mere fraction of our missionaries’ ongoing efforts during the pandemic,” says Fr. Gus. “And through it all, they remain committed to providing educational continuity for youth. Don Bosco himself would be proud.” Truly. As he once said, *“What is the spirit that must animate our body? My beloved, it is charity!”* ❤

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/covid-19



Giving Thanks for Haiti's "Little Schools"

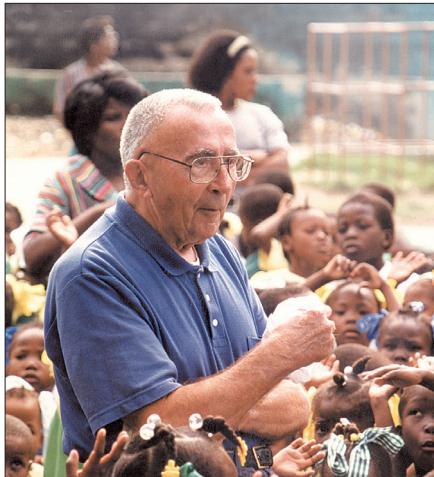
In the Port-au-Prince slums of La Saline and Cité Soleil – distressed areas where most parents do not have the means to properly care for their children – Salesian missionaries operate a network of 192 primary schools known as OPEPB, or the "Little Schools of Fr. Bohnen," named after its founder.



A primary school student at one of the "Little Schools" in the Cité Soleil neighborhood of Port-au-Prince.

Since 1954, missionaries and staff at the Little Schools have provided an education and nutritious meals to impoverished children. Father Bohnen, a Dutch native, had been assigned as head of St. John Bosco elementary school in La Saline, where he encouraged local teachers to form "little schools" for the children. His goal was to teach these children how to read, a first step toward their overall education.

Fr. Bohnen also invited students attending these "little schools" to come to the St. John Bosco cafeteria, where they would receive a hot lunch. He further supported the schools by providing training and salary incentives for the teachers and a curriculum for all the schools.



Beloved Father Laurent Bohnen, S.D.B., passed away at the age of 87 on August 19, 2002. He spent 45 years working in Haiti, devoting his life to caring for the young.

Some of the Little Schools are located on the Salesian-run National Academy of Arts (ENAM) campus, where nearly every building was destroyed during the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake. At the time of the quake, classes were still in session and just minutes away from dismissal. Sadly, hundreds of students on the campus were killed – many of whom were older, and studying to become teachers themselves.

In response to the emergency, Salesian missionaries sprung to action. Thanks to critical networking during the aftermath, students were able to return to their studies at 60 of the Little Schools by

October 2012. At first, their classrooms were located under trees or in makeshift tents. Today, thanks to your generosity, all 192 schools are fully operational and have resumed activities, educating more than 17,000 students. Many buildings, however, still need some additional repairs.

From 2017 to 2019, Salesian Missions, using various grants and donor support, funded and started its “Hunger for Education” project in Haiti. The project increased the health and learning capacity of students by implementing school feeding programs in five Salesian centers – including the OPEPB Little Schools in Port-au-Prince.

Fr. Bohnen recognized that “a hungry stomach has no ear.” He knew that children could not focus on their studies without nourishment. The Little Schools have one of the largest free cafeterias in the world, equipped with two huge kitchens, two large dining



halls, and a recently added bakery to help meet the need for bread. As part of the Hunger for Education project, 8,620 students receive daily lunch from the two main cafeterias.

“Many of our Salesian students in Haiti come to class with an empty stomach because there is little food at home,” said Father Gus Baek, Director of Salesian Missions. “With Salesian feeding programs, children who once arrived at school hungry and had to struggle through classes without food are now provided with a meal during the day. As a result, students have shown improvements in health, happiness and capacity to learn.”

Despite the ongoing reconstruction and infrastructure improvements that are helping to rebuild Haiti, the country remains the poorest in the Americas and one of the poorest in the world. Three-quarters of the population lives on less than \$2 a day and faces the highest levels of severe food insecurity in the world, according to the World Food Program. More than half of the country’s population of 10.7 million people is undernourished. Nearly 100,000 Haitian children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition, causing irreversible stunted growth for close to 30 percent of all children in the country.

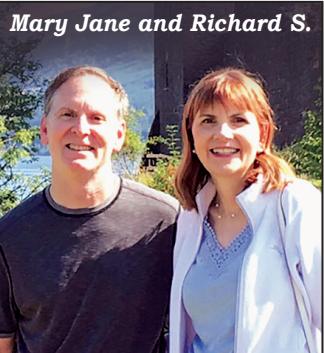
This is why our Salesians are there for the children and families – and will stay as long as necessary.

For Salesian missionaries in Haiti, schools and youth programs fulfill an important socio-economic mission. They provide poor youth a foundation for lifelong learning through education and training in skills and trades to help them escape poverty and establish a sustainable livelihood. ❤

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/haiti

Why I Give...

A Heartfelt Testimony from One of our Donors



I first learned about Salesian Missions when I was a child in the 1960s. Father Bohnen, who was a Salesian Priest, helped set up the "Little Schools" in Haiti.

He spent part of his summers traveling around the United States by bus to visit some Salesian donors. He became friends with my father and came to our home in the Kingston, New York area every summer. Fr. Bohnen spent the night with us and enjoyed a delicious home-cooked meal that my mother made. As a child, I was fascinated by his stories. I learned about Salesian Missions and the important work they did around the world.

Father Bohnen and my parents are gone now, but I learned about the importance of charity and giving from them – especially with all the blessings we've received. So I'm happy to support Salesian Missions. I look back fondly at the times we spent with Father Bohnen, and I'm so glad his legacy continues on today.

Mary Jane S.

Share your story! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/testimonial

Notes From the Field...

A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience



Lay Missioner: Katie Church

Mission Assignment: Cambodia

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard"



I think we all can agree that saying goodbye is never easy.

And while the word "goodbye" has garnered a rather negative emotional connotation in society, there is another way, a more positive way, to perceive it. Author A.A. Milne, who is perhaps best known for his books about a teddy bear named Winnie-the-Pooh, once wrote: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

While saying goodbye does mean accepting that a



Having a bit of fun with her precious "little ones."

part of our life is now over, it also provides us with a chance to realize just how blessed our lives have been.

To look back and reflect on the journeys I've shared with some wonderful Salesian Sisters, teachers, students, and my site partner, I've been exposed to amazing and invaluable experiences that I will always remember.

When I first came to Cambodia I was so nervous. As I told my students today, which got me choked up, I was very scared to be a teacher. I had no background, and I thought I would fail them. I wanted them to have a great year and learn a lot, and I doubted that I could do that for them. I doubted that my presentations were enough to teach them. I doubted if it was a good lesson or not. I doubted everything.

Today, I wanted to tell my students thank you for not giving up on me. For always encouraging me in class, saying that it was okay, and they understood. Sharing feelings is very hard for me and when I started talking, I started crying.

I hate crying. I had all my thoughts ready and then I couldn't say a word. But the students were so kind. My students knew I needed help and started to sing to me... they sang, *"Be Strong and Courageous, and Do Not Be Afraid."* I have always loved the phrase "Do Not Be Afraid." It was an important phrase when I was praying to go on mission, so hearing my students sing that to me made my heart so happy.

We have to be strong and courageous.

If I came to Cambodia and didn't talk to anyone, it would have been



A few of the students that have forever changed Katie's life.

a boring year. My life was changed because I reached out with courage, while not knowing their language, and talked to my students. I was very afraid, but I did it. And 10 months later, I have the greatest relationships with my students, which makes saying goodbye so hard. But if I didn't take that first step, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Regardless of how long someone has been a part of our lives, whether it's five minutes, five years, or five decades, their impact will always remain with us – even after we utter that simple, yet hard to say, two-syllable word.

This quote from Walt Disney, has continually provided me comfort on days when I'm feeling sad and lonely and need a little reminder of the blessings I've been given, which no one can ever take away. *"Goodbye may seem forever. Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory and there you will always be."*

*Making new friends and
gaining an appreciation of
Cambodian culture.*

Katie

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.

I YES! SHOW ME HOW I CAN HELP THE CHILDREN AND MYSELF!

SUM/FALL
2020 AN

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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!

Don Bosco Cristo Rey in Washington, DC *Thirteen life-changing years - with more ahead*

In 2007, after four years of intentional planning, determination, and faith, the Salesians of Don Bosco fulfilled a long-held dream: to provide at-risk youth in Washington, D.C. with a quality high school education that prepares them for college and beyond. That fall, Don Bosco Cristo Rey opened its doors to the first class of 125 highly motivated students: young men and women seeking life-changing opportunities they might have previously only dreamed about.

The school follows Cristo Rey's nationally acclaimed, proven model of success: integrating rigorous academics with a corporate internship program



The spirit of St. Don Bosco lives on in Cristo Rey High School!



Last year's "Bridge for Success" – a 3-week orientation program for incoming students.

that together impart the foundational knowledge and skills young people need to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Because the venture unintentionally coincided with the Great Recession, DB Cristo Rey's internship program faced a threat that permanently could have undermined its viability. As is true in each of the network's schools, the internship functions as a crucially important work-study program in which students gain invaluable professional skills while earning money that covers a significant portion of their expenses. Without adequate hands-on learning experiences, the education students were promised would fall short, and

school administrators would be unable to cover the full costs of providing it.

"Many people who loved the mission smiled politely and said to come back in a couple of years when things turn around," explained Father Steve Shafran, founding president of the school, at the time. "We made a promise; we had a 9th grade class. I had no Plan B. What would I tell these bright-eyed students and their enthusiastic families?"

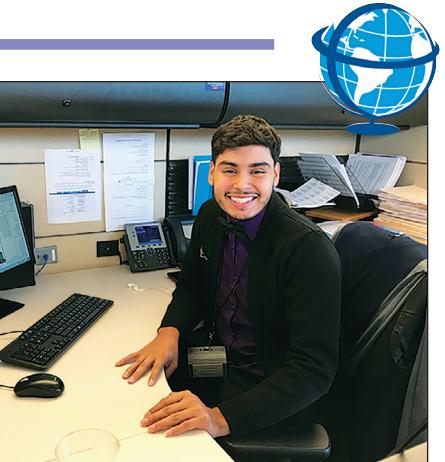
Miraculously, despite these challenges, DB Cristo Rey exceeded everyone's wildest expectations. School leadership postponed capital improvements, faculty improvised on employment placements, and the entire staff emphasized individual student attention. At the same time, a steady stream of small donations from caring friends enabled the fledgling school to balance its budget each year.

Today, thanks in part to that ongoing and generous support, Don Bosco Cristo Rey continues to exceed expectations. Nearly 400 students with limited financial resources, hailing from more than 50 zip codes in Maryland and the District of Columbia, attend

this “School that Works.” Businesses throughout the area enthusiastically support its Corporate Work-Study Program, which functions as a unique partnership among the Archdiocese of Washington, the Salesians of Don Bosco, and the Cristo Rey network. Spanning a broad range of organizations – from the United States Department

of Energy to Safeway; Deloitte to Kaiser Permanente; Marriott International to NASA; and dozens in between – these committed partners employ students in positions that ordinarily might be filled by temporary workers or full-time entry-level staffers.

“The tasks that students perform can be a mile wide or a mile deep,” says Tania Argueta, a 2011 graduate of DB Cristo Rey. As the school’s placement specialist, Ms. Argueta matches students with job sites. “Often, they fill high-turnover positions for an entire year, which is a win-win,” she explains. “Our corporate partners save money on recruitment and retention efforts while playing an important role in



An enthusiastic Cristo Rey student on the job under the school's Corporate Work-Study Program.

educating and shaping the next generation of workers. In turn, our students have ample time to learn the ropes and develop the skills they need to become successful professionals and leaders.”

“We run a pretty lean shop,” explains J.B. Deerin, president of PCM Services, a DB Cristo Rey partner. “So we expect [students] to contribute fully.” And they do. From accounts payable and receivable duties, to website updates and editing, to corporate correspondence and more, these young people make vital contributions to their respective teams. Impressively, in the past school year alone, they have also earned more than \$2 million toward their own education.



Proud 2019 graduates heading on to higher education. 100% of Cristo Rey graduates are accepted into colleges and are awarded millions of dollars in scholarships.

“Our students truly have the determination to change their futures for themselves,” says Fr. Steve.

Since that challenging first year, DB Cristo Rey has experienced continual improvement and expansion to meet students’ needs. In April 2010, the school added a new Library-Technology Center as well as counseling, youth ministry, student support and administrative offices.

More recently, a new academic wing added three science labs, five classrooms, the Carlyle Computer Lab, a professional resource room for staff, a multi-purpose training room, a counseling and academic center, and a new reception area. This new wing provides the necessary technology and space to enable DB Cristo Rey to grow to its intended capacity of 500 students.

“I marvel at what has taken place around me,” reflects Fr. Steve. “I am honored to have been called to be part of this miracle, to work with dedicated educators and to serve young people who want the tools that will help them break the cycle of poverty.”

In 2011, each member of DB Cristo Rey’s first class of graduating seniors headed off to college. Since then, 100 percent of graduates have been accepted to college every year – and have received more than \$16 million in merit and need based scholarships.♥

To learn more about Don Bosco Cristo Rey, we invite you to watch their video at www.dbcr.org/dbcr-video

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!

SUM/FALL 2020
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Enclosed is my gift that will multiply 14X! \$10 \$15 \$25 \$_____

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Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/miracle

Salesian Snapshots

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

EAST TIMOR: Desks for Salesian students

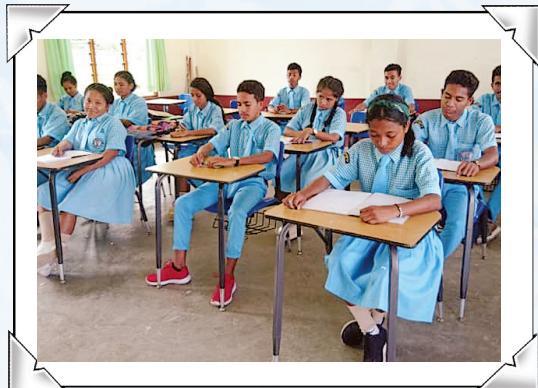
Three Salesian-run schools in East Timor have new furniture thanks to an ongoing partnership between Salesian Missions and the Institution Recycling Network (IRN).

Launched in 1999, IRN matches surplus items from U.S.-based educational, commercial, and healthcare organizations with people around the world who need them most – and donates those items free of charge. For the past seven years, as recipients of this generosity, Salesian Missions has covered the shipping and delivery costs to programs in Central America, South America, Africa, and Asia.

This latest donation, which arrived in October 2019, included 295 desks with chairs that were distributed to classrooms in Venilale, Laga, and Dili Comoro. Missionaries in East Timor are grateful to both IRN and Salesian Missions for helping ensure that students are able to learn in a comfortable environment.

“It may seem a small thing, but proper desks allow our students to better focus on their lessons,” says Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “This, in turn, affirms their dignity.”

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/east-timor



Donated desks put to very good use!



NIGERIA: Salesian Missions provides access to clean water

Thanks to the generosity of Salesian Missions donors who contribute funds to our Clean Water Initiative, five communities in Nigeria now can live healthier lives. New well projects completed in the states of Bagbe, Litaye, Ondo, Akwa Ibom, and Imo will provide safe drinking water to more than 20,000 impoverished children and families. This will reduce outbreaks of waterborne disease and erase the need to walk hours each day in search of a reliable water source. As a result, children can stay focused on their education, and parents can spend more time supporting their families.

Nigeria is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, and only 26.5 percent of residents have access to adequate drinking water and sanitation facilities. While the nation enjoys the second strongest economy in Africa, it also suffers extreme poverty: 100 million people live on less than \$1 a day. Since 1982, Salesian missionaries have been serving Nigeria's most marginalized communities with the programs and services they need to improve their lives.



Providing clean, healthy water to those most in need is a major effort of the Salesians.

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/water

BOLIVIA: “Proyecto Don Bosco” for street children

There are many places around the world where the Salesians strive to save children and adolescents from the street. Their goal is to gradually remove them from a condition they have become accustomed to.

Bolivia is one such place. Many Bolivian children live on the streets in the absence of an intact family, proper support or because of abuse.

One of the works that the Salesians are dedicating to these vulnerable children is in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, where the “Proyecto Don Bosco” was launched 29 years ago, thanks to the initiative of Fr. Ottavio Sabbadin. Here, hundreds of street children have been cared for over the years. The center offers a safe, loving home, clothing, meals, medical and psychiatric care, and an education – all according to the principles of the Don Bosco Preventive System.

This Salesian center is a home to minors in a situation of high social risk, but thanks to “Papa Ottavio” – as the children call him – and to other Salesians and volunteers, these children and young people now have the real chance for a decent and rewarding future. ❤

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/bolivia



Grateful, happy youngsters well cared for at the “Proyecto Don Bosco” center for street children in Bolivia.

What was once mud and tin...



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

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!

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generous people
like you!

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- Enclosed is my gift of \$21,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in a remote and difficult area.
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NAME: _____

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The story of Pappu –

SAVED FROM CHILD TRAFFICKING



One carefree moment, seven-year-old Pappu Shukla was playing on the street with his older sister. The next, he'd been kidnapped and forced to work as a servant.

"Those people were horrible," Pappu recalls. "Often they got drunk and beat me, so after a while I decided to run away." Desperate to escape, but unaware of where he was, the little boy boarded the first train he could. That train took him to Calcutta, India, where a volunteer for the Salesian-run "Childline" project



found him wandering aimlessly on the station platform.

"I didn't know which state or city my parents came from, and nobody had reported my disappearance because we were very poor, so they couldn't find my family," he explains.

Ten years later, 17-year-old Pappu is a shining example of our missionaries' work on behalf of homeless youth and children's rights in India.

Entrusted by local authorities to Don Bosco Ashalayam, Pappu received safe shelter, warm meals, and the chance to go to school. Now a student at the University of New Delhi, he dreams of a career in graphic design.

"Although to date I haven't been able to track down my parents, I'm happy, because the Salesians have given me a new family," he says. "I have come a long way, and I'll never forget what Ashalayam has done for me."

Salesian missionaries at Don Bosco Ashalayam work to rehabilitate street children, regardless of religion, race or gender. Currently, more than 500 girls and boys reside in Ashalayam's 23 shelters, where they benefit from educational and recreational opportunities. Through its presence on the streets and the courses and programs offered in slums and railway stations, this Salesian program has assisted 80,000 children over the course of three decades.

Don Bosco Ashalayam's Childline is a free telephone service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that street children can call anonymously. In collaboration with the police, health services, juvenile court, transport companies, media and communication bureaus, and other agencies, this service aims to highlight and protect the rights of India's most vulnerable children.♥



The Salesian Childline program is a literal lifesaver for many children.

Learn more! Visit www.SalesianMissions.org/india

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Summer/Fall 2020

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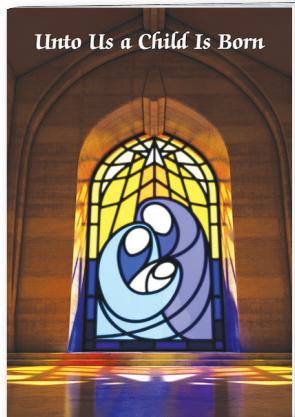
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From Hunger to Hope

"I remember the first time I met Vianny," recalls Father Elie Nyandwi. "I greeted him but he did not answer." This reticent young boy, from a deeply impoverished family in rural Butambala, Uganda, was so desperately hungry that he couldn't even muster the energy to smile. Today, he lights up every room with the joy borne of having his basic needs met, thanks to our Salesian missionaries, our international partnerships, and our many compassionate friends.

Fr. Elie directs the Don Bosco Children and Life Missions (Don Bosco CALM) orphanage, and the Don Bosco Primary School, in Namugongo, Uganda. Despite financial challenges, these programs serve more than 300 children, many of whom have struggled with poverty, abandonment, homelessness and HIV-related illnesses. Vianny came to the Don Bosco Primary School a year ago after his parents – wanting their son to have the opportunities afforded by an education – pleaded for our missionaries' assistance.

"Our financial, human and logistic resources are scarce," Fr. Elie explains. "We face difficulty in feeding children, paying for their school fees, scholastic materials, medical assistance and paying monthly salaries for our workers." Still, Fr. Elie is hard-pressed to turn away children like Vianny – which is why the partnership Salesian Missions has with Rise Against Hunger is so critical.





Each year, Rise Against Hunger donates tons of fortified meals to Salesian-run programs in some of the world's poorest communities. Our generous donors provide the funding required to prepare, transport and serve this food. In addition to alleviating students' hunger, these meal donations free up resources for other crucial Salesian programs and services.

As for Vianny? "He is the first one to come to greet me everywhere he finds me," Fr. Elie reports. "His gorgeous smile reveals his internal joy caused by being loved, well fed and having many of his basic needs met. And he is always among the five best performing pupils in his class."

Students cannot concentrate or learn when they're distracted by gnawing hunger. This is why feeding programs are so crucial to Salesian efforts around the world – because breaking the chains of poverty requires the ability to succeed in school.

The program is clearly succeeding for Vianny. Once forced by circumstance to survive on one shared meal of cassava bread and beans each day, he is now fully nourished and dreams of becoming a police officer when he grows up.

Our mission feeds hungry children so that education, and a pathway out of poverty, becomes possible. **What's your mission?** ❤



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. Gus



WISHES OF THE MONTH

- **Nurture faith and spread hope.** Our Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) program places generous young people in some of the most impoverished communities in the world. Your gift helps volunteers like Katie (*see p. 9*) live their faith in service to marginalized and vulnerable children and families.
 - **Quench their thirst for clean water.** Thousands of precious children get ill, and many die, each day because they have no choice but to drink contaminated water. You can help by supporting our Clean Water Initiative. (*See p. 19*).
 - **Provide a loving home for a lost child.** Around the world, far too many innocent kids end up separated from their families through no fault of their own. With your support, Salesian-run programs like Don Bosco Ashalayam in New Delhi provide safe shelter and a fresh start for children with nowhere else to turn. (*See p. 22*).
 - **Help nourish hungry schoolchildren.** Millions of children across the developing world show up for class on an empty stomach, which disrupts their learning and stunts their potential. Our missionaries are turning this troubling trend around, one student at a time. Can you help? (*See p. 26*).

GRANT A WISH REPLY FORM

SUM/FALL 2020
WI (BF)

- 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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MR. & MRS. JOHN RESINO, CLINTON CT

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