

WINTER/SPRING 2022

SALESIAN[®]



**SALESIAN
MISSIONS**



GIVING HOPE TO YOUTH AROUND THE GLOBE FOR 75 YEARS

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...



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**EXPLORE
AND LEARN
MORE
AT OUR
WEBSITE**

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

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Letter From The Editor



Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!

As I write this letter today, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude. *Gratitude* for our men and women of Don Bosco,

whose unswerving commitment to marginalized youth makes a difference each and every day. *Gratitude* for loyal friends like you. And *gratitude* for the privilege of serving as your director in this, our 75th year.

Stewarding Father Ed Cappelletti's tremendous legacy is a responsibility I don't take lightly. It's also a pursuit that brings me great joy—because the true human impact of his vision is measurable in the success stories I've heard since joining Salesian Missions three years ago.

You share in this joy, too. So many people have pulled themselves out of poverty and built better lives for themselves because *you* believed they could. In fact, alongside our thousands of dedicated missionaries and lay volunteers in more than 130 countries around the world, you have helped make a transformative difference in the lives of **three million children** and their families!

In this issue of SALESIAN, you'll discover tangible evidence of your compassion that I know will warm your heart. You can also read more about the history of Salesian Missions on page 2.

During the coming months, as we celebrate this significant milestone, please know that *you* are the best birthday gift that we could ever ask for.

Here's to the next 75 years of making a difference, together!

With sincere gratitude,

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.

P.S. If you'd like to make a special donation in honor of our birthday, you'll discover several opportunities throughout these pages. Whether it's bringing safe water to a community in need, helping a remote community build their own chapel, or setting up a charitable gift annuity, your generosity continues to make a difference.



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 as well as here at our Salesian Missions Chapel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SALESIAN MISSIONS

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to the Poor

In 1959, when Father Edward (“Ed”) Cappelletti arrived in New Rochelle, New York, he likely never could have imagined the outsized impact he would make on the future of Salesian Missions.



That was the year Fr. Ed assumed directorship of the organization, founded in 1947 by Father James O’Loughlen in response to a growing need: to raise funds in support of our missionaries’ work around the world. From the moment Fr. Ed stepped in, he poured his heart and soul into transforming what was then a humble office

Father James O’Loughlen establishes the Missions Office, initially in the Provincial House in New Rochelle, NY.

1947

Father Edward (“Ed”) Cappelletti assumes leadership of the Missions Office, serving the next 44 years.

1959

Salesian Missions becomes a nonprofit, charitable organization.

1959



into a mission-based organization with a global reach.

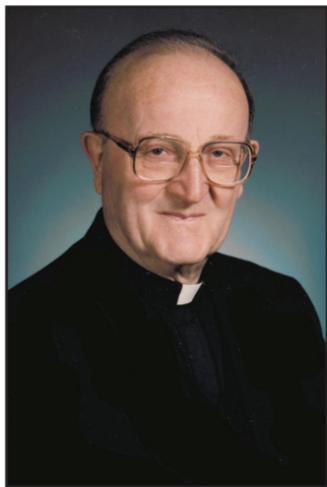
This year, we officially celebrate our 75th anniversary—a significant milestone in our long and fruitful partnership with loyal, compassionate, and generous friends like you. Together, we’ve achieved success after remarkable success: not for ourselves, but for some of the world’s poorest, most disenfranchised, and most vulnerable children and families. Today, we’re proud to tell our story in their honor—and in yours. And it starts with Fr. Ed.

A Visionary Leader

During his 63-year vocation, Father Ed often expressed his desire to be remembered as “a priest who tried desperately to follow his motto at his ordination: *The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.*”

As the longest-tenured director of Salesian Missions, we can attest that he indeed fulfilled his wish.

From the very beginning, Fr. Ed’s charter was simple, yet his creativity was bold. Tasked with telling the stories of our missionaries’ global works in order to rally support for their efforts, he resolved to reach out to potential supporters via the U.S. Postal Service. Fr. Ed’s vision arguably revolutionized the use of direct mail for fundraising and donor relations—a fact the Smithsonian recognized with a special exhibit



Fr. Ed sets an ambitious goal to develop a significant donor list within five years, starting with city phone books.

1963

Salesian Missions becomes a founding member of the National Catholic Development Conference.

1968

at the National Postal Museum in 2016.

Together with a small staff of three typists operating out of the Provincial House, Fr. Ed set an ambitious goal in 1963: to compile a major, significant donor list within five years. Armed with local telephone books, they scoured the listings for specific ethnic surnames (individuals and families likely to be Catholic), and manually compiled them into what postal historians believe to be one of the very first official mailing lists. Later—through researching surnames found in a phone book from Puerto Rico and cross-referencing those names against U.S. phone books—the staff was able to include a new segment of likely Spanish-speaking Catholics on the list.



Fr. Ed and his team ultimately prevailed. With a brand-new building and the new technology and automated processes available in 1972, he and his staff successfully identified and cultivated thousands of donors by 1975. And, by the early 1980s, Fr. Ed's unwavering innovation led to a proprietary system for identifying and communicating with Catholics through the mail. Recognizing emerging population trends, he also continued the development of a Spanish-language communications initiative.

Although Fr. Ed died on November 12, 2013, at the age of 93, his indelible

Fr. Ed receives approval to build a dedicated Salesian Missions Office on Provincial House property in New Rochelle.

1970

Salesian Missions Office building is completed.

1972

Fr. Ed and staff achieve their goal of establishing a significant donor list.

1975

legacy continues to inspire our work today. Our dedicated staff in the Salesian Missions Office in New Rochelle, New York communicates with a multitude of generous donors and partners each and every day. Supporters like you who generously respond help fund the work of nearly **30,000 Salesian missionaries** in more than **130 countries** around the world. To date, this work has improved the lives and futures of over **three million children!**

Fr. Ed had long since retired from his post by the time he died, of course. He'd left big shoes to fill, yet his successors—including Father Mark Hyde—were committed to carefully stewarding his vision. As Fr. Ed's first anniversary approached, Fr. Mark and the entire Salesian Missions staff knew they had the opportunity and responsibility to honor him in a meaningful and lasting way.

On September 24, 2014, the Salesian Missions Office dedicated a special plaque to Fr. Ed that reads, in part: *“May we who work in this building follow his vision, wisdom and dedication to Salesian Missions around the world.”*



The road leading up to the building is also now known as “Father Cappelletti Way.”

Fr. Ed develops a brand new, proprietary Catholic selection program, which allows Salesian Missions to better focus its communications.

1980

Recognizing demographic trends, Fr. Ed oversees development of a Spanish-language communications program.

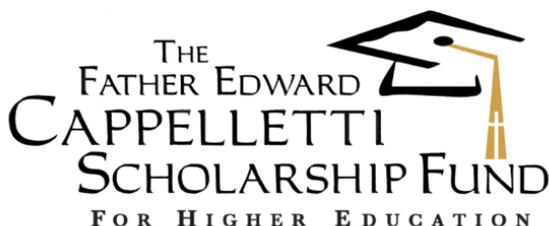
1982

Ongoing Purpose and Continued Advancement

“From the time Fr. James first established Salesian Missions, our purpose has been threefold,” says Fr. Gus Baek, current director of Salesian Missions. “First, of course, is raising funds to support our global works for the poor. Second, we further Don Bosco’s spirit by promoting his Preventive System of reason, religion and loving kindness—which helps vulnerable youth around the world gain an education, learn marketable job skills, and become contributing members of society—and directing resources toward those goals. And third, we strive to build awareness of the Salesian Order itself, which is the second largest in the Catholic Church.”

Today, Salesian Missions staff advance these goals in parallel.

Globally, our missionaries provide education and support through more than 5,500 schools and youth centers; more than 80 colleges and universities; nearly 1,000 vocational, pre-professional and training programs; more than 40 professional degree programs; more than 40 agricultural educational programs; and nearly 90 adult educational centers. With the funds and in-kind donations we raise, Salesian Missions acts as your hands reaching out and offering new hope. Millions of impoverished, marginalized, and exploited children and youth around the world are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to break the cycle of poverty and build brighter futures as self-sufficient adults. We invite you to visit our website, salesianmissions.org, to explore and discover the many



New computer technology helps streamline operations to increase and improve communication channels with our donors.

1995

Brother Emile Dubé is appointed Director of Salesian Missions.

2003

Father Mark Hyde succeeds Bro. Emile.

2008

ways we're making a difference, thanks to your support.

We also specifically support several initiatives that promote and encourage prayer and meaningful connection to our unique Salesian Charism.

For example, our dedicated Memorial Chapel program helps missionaries and the people they serve build simple places of worship in some of the most remote areas of the world. Once complete, these chapels offer a place to celebrate Mass, convene, reflect, and learn about the Salesian values that guide our work. To date, designated gifts to the program have helped build more than 850 chapels.



Our Salesian Lay Missionary (SLM) program (see story on page 9) is a faith-based volunteer association of men and women seeking to answer God's missionary call in their own lives by dedicating

themselves to works of education, evangelization and human development among poor youth. SLMs share in the tradition, prayer, work, family spirit, community life and educational method of the Salesians of Don Bosco, while living in community with the Salesian missionaries and the people they serve.

And there's our annual Missionary Cooperative Program, which brings a special group of Salesian priests from around the world to parishes across the United States. Here they speak directly to the congregation

Father Ed dies
(Nov. 12).

2013

Salesian Missions staff
dedicate office building
to Fr. Ed (Sept. 24).

2014

Fr. Augustine ("Gus") Baek succeeds
Fr. Mark and is current Director of
Salesian Missions.

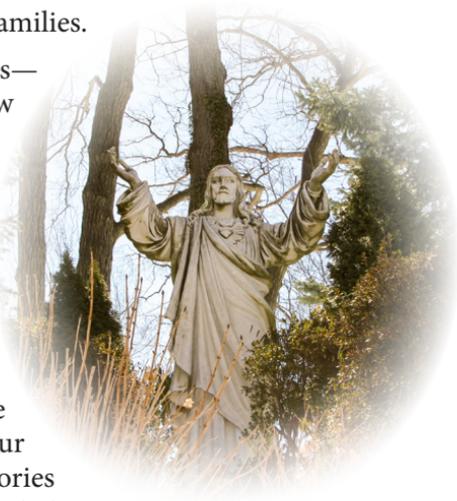
2020

to build awareness of Salesian Charism through personal and inspiring stories of their work around the world on behalf of marginalized youth and families.

“The efforts of these missionaries—and everything we do here in New Rochelle to support them—is only possible thanks to the caring compassion of our friends,” says Fr. Gus. “This year, as we recognize and celebrate our many collective accomplishments during the past 75 years, we also look forward to the next 75. With Fr. Ed’s creativity and dedication to inspire us, we will continue to evolve our communications and amplify our stories so we can engage more people in our mission.

In doing so, we can make a direct, measurable difference in the lives of even more children and families who need it most.”

No doubt, Fr. Ed would approve.



JOIN US FOR HOLY MASS!

Now streaming LIVE every week from our Salesian Missions Chapel.

Just go to our website

SalesianMissions.org/Mass

every Wednesday at 10:00am(EST)



***I hope you will be with us to worship and pray together...
and be sure to invite your friends and loved ones.***

Notes From The Field



A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience

LAY MISSIONER: CHRISTOPHER LEE

MISSION ASSIGNMENT: KOKOPO. PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Something Beyond

“There must be something more than this, right?”

This is the question that eventually inspired me to volunteer as a Salesian Lay Missioner. I'd often found myself pondering it while working at a hospital in America; as time wore on, the feeling that I was called to do something more—something “beyond”—had only intensified.

So I took this question in prayer to the Lord, and His answer was unmistakable: I needed to make a change in my life. I sought advice from my spiritual director, who said, “Chris, you keep mentioning ‘mission.’ I want you to pursue it, *really pursue it*, because you're not going to be happy until you do.”

I believed God was speaking to me through him, so I began searching for a group to mission with. That search eventually led me to the Salesians; when I heard about the opportunity in Papua New Guinea (PNG), I felt that

God had chosen it for me. I've always loved exploring and experiencing new things, so the thought of going to the 'end of the world' intrigued me.

Additionally, as someone who loves to work with his hands, I felt I'd fit in better with students from a technical school rather than from a purely academic school. After arriving in PNG, I quickly settled into my assignment at the Don Bosco Technical Secondary School in Kokopo.

Here, my primary duties include teaching and participating in recreational activities. I'm responsible for Christian Religious Education—and while I'm particularly fired up about class, I think the boys are more interested in extracurriculars. During recess and breaks, I engage with students in several activities ranging from music to sports such as basketball and soccer.

Always—whether in class or out of it—I do what all Salesians are called to do: 'accompany.' I make myself available to the boys so that if they have any questions, concerns, or just want someone to talk to, I'm there. I treasure those seemingly insignificant moments when I'm talking to a student one-on-one. I believe that's when they open up to me, and I can both teach and learn from a soul unfettered by the pressures of the world.

Many boys enthusiastically jump into sports and other activities, but others are content just to sit on the sidelines and watch. These are the students I'm most passionate about engaging. Why? Because I know that if they don't learn to get involved here, they may spend their whole lives sitting on the sidelines. Like Don Bosco, I've always been drawn to the outcasts. I try to bring them out of their shells, to experience life more fully. It's not always easy, given the language and educational disparities between some of the boys and me, but my past experiences have helped me prepare.



One of my own teachers once advised that if I can explain something to my teenaged niece in a way she'd understand, then I can explain it to anyone. I've applied this advice in my career as well as here at the school. Don Bosco also advocated simple explanations, so I try to design my lessons in that spirit. And, while the technical and academic courses are important in laying good foundations for these boys, perhaps the most important lessons are the ones we teach about God.

I believe example is the best teacher, and it's through my everyday actions that I try to communicate my experiences with Him to everyone here at Don Bosco Technical Secondary School. Because my primary job is religious education, I do the best I can both in the classroom and out of it—but I believe the boys will learn more from my actions than from my words.

I've been here a month already, and have made so many new friends and learned so much. If you ask me would I do it again, knowing the things I do now, my answer would be a resounding "Yes!"

God knew what He was doing when He called me here, and I can't wait to see what other adventures He has in store!

God bless you all
Christopher

Learn more about our work in Papua New Guinea: <https://dbpgs.org/>

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
(914)633-8344

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!

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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

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!

The Salesian Family Youth Center

*Teaching, Mentoring, and Inspiring
Los Angeles Kids for 55 Years*

What began in 1966 as a modest activities center for underprivileged boys has blossomed into a robust mission serving thousands of youth and their families in the spirit of Don Bosco. That year, on Wabash Avenue in East Los Angeles, the Salesian Boys Club began offering affordable afterschool and recreational programming for economically disadvantaged youth living in the city's Boyle Heights and City Terrace neighborhoods. Staff envisioned a safe refuge where boys who were vulnerable to risky behaviors, or dropping out



Photos used with permission - Salesian Family Youth Center.

of school, could discover positive alternatives to loitering on the streets. And it worked. Through activities such as gymnastics,



basketball, and other sports, participants found the support they needed to imagine, and create, better futures for themselves.

By 1994, the club had expanded into two locations and rebranded to better reflect its diversified membership and programming. Today, with a mission “to inspire and enable the young people of Boyle Heights and the surrounding communities to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens and to support their families in this effort,” the Salesian Family Youth Center serves 3,400 underprivileged girls and boys ages 6-18. Here are a few ways how:

We Care Program

Designed to assist children with their social emotional learning and academic achievement, this afterschool program offers homework assistance, tutoring, and age-appropriate enrichment activities for students ages 5-13. We Care also partners with the L.A. Food

Bank to provide all participants with a nutritious dinner every evening.

SHOUT

Specifically developed for area high school students, SHOUT integrates academic programming, recreational education, and emotional enrichment activities to help young adults better appreciate their education and improve their willingness to engage in school. All of SHOUT’s offerings, which include tutoring, English and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) clubs, youth leadership workshops, computer training, and more, are free.

Camp Salesian

In operation since 1966, this summer program offers a safe, healthy, and fun environment for kids ages 5-13. Campers can choose from among a range of daily pursuits, including sports, arts & crafts, cooking, music, integrated learning activities, and more. Children receive breakfast and a hot lunch every day of the season, and families who need extra support can take advantage of extended evening care. This program is open for international volunteers who would like to experience a Salesian summer activity.

Innovation and Responsiveness

The pandemic created particular hardships for many families in Boyle Heights, and Salesian Family Youth Center staff knew they needed to respond. Despite the challenges posed by mandatory shutdowns, the center pivoted to online programming and communication to keep in touch with children and families during an especially vulnerable time. For example, SHOUT successfully employed video conferencing and social media tools to continue as a fully virtual program. We Care provided crucial assistance for students without home internet access by offering COVID-safe, in-person computer labs where they could log on to their classes. Staff also brainstormed ways to reach out to kids isolated at home, assembling and delivering activities baskets to keep them engaged and hopeful. And Camp Salesian brought virtual field trip experiences directly to kids. For more information on these programs, visit salesianclubs-la.org.

And More ...

In addition to the Salesian Family Youth Center, our dedicated men and women of Don Bosco operate Bishop Mora Salesian High School, St. Mary's Church parish community, and most recently Santa

Isabel Church, all located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. Now a college preparatory school, Salesian High School annually graduates nearly 100 young men from diverse backgrounds, with a 95 percent college acceptance rate.

Youth from Salesian High School and the St. Mary's school community can become mentors at the Salesian



Family Youth Center, where they model the behaviors, attitudes, and habits kids need to improve their academic, athletic, and social skills. Many of these same young people also train to become counselors at Camp Salesian. And now, Santa Isabel Church is also connected to and participating in Salesian-run programs.

Mission accomplished!

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!

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

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

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Improving Lives, And Futures, One Well At A Time

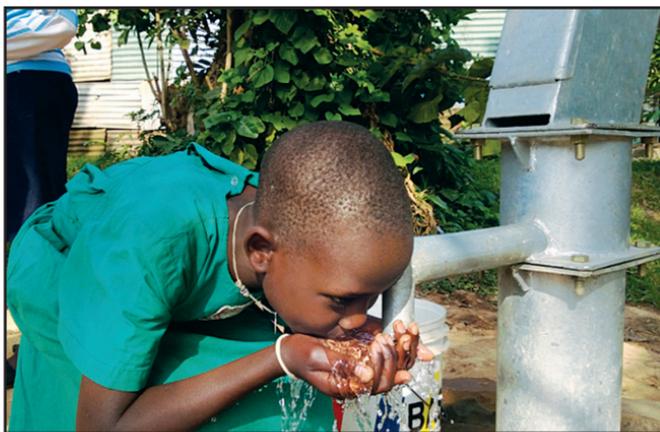


The Evuna stream is brown, dirty, and frequently dried up. Yet thousands of people in rural Nkerefi, Nigeria depend on it for their survival. Or, at least they used to ... until friends of Salesian Missions stepped in to help build a well.

More than 200 families live in the largely agricultural community of Nkerefi, and their lives aren't easy. Not too long ago, the only accessible water anywhere nearby had been the Evuna—a seasonal source that would all but disappear when the rains stopped. Families drank from the stream, bathed in it, and cooked, cleaned, and watered their crops with it. Far too often, they also got sick from it.

“This water source has been clinically confirmed to be non-potable,” says Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “Yet—as we see time and time again in impoverished communities around the world—people have no choice but to use the water they have. And the negative impacts on their health, their education, and their ability to make a living are devastating.”

Indeed. In Nkerefi, water-borne diseases are ever-present: cholera, ringworm, tapeworm, dysentery, and other critical illnesses.



Historically, a number of women and children would die every year from typhoid fever linked to the Evuna. Those fortunate enough to remain relatively healthy still lost hours of their days trekking

challenging distances to and from the river just to collect dirty water.

“Compared to nurturing children, going to school, and contributing to the family income, such investments of time show very little return,” Fr. Gus explains. “And those hours are ones that households can never get back. That’s why we are so committed to bringing local sources of safe water to as many communities as we can.”

Since 2014, when Salesian Missions first established a dedicated Clean Water Initiative, many generous donors have helped build wells, install water systems, construct bathroom and sanitation facilities, develop rural watersheds, and complete other clean water projects in dozens of underserved areas around the world. When missionaries in Nkerefi reached out to Fr. Gus with the proposal, the plan, and the contractors in place to drill and power a new, local well, he knew the project was in good hands. It just needed funding. And our loyal Salesian Missions friends came through.

Today, families in Nkerefi can collect fresh, clean water close to their homes. Unlike the Evuna, this water source will remain available throughout the year. And the positive effects ripple throughout the community.

“The individual and collective commitments that our friends made to this project will truly lead to brighter futures,” says Fr. Gus. “When women no longer spend hours each day searching for water, they have more time to devote to their children, and to contributing economically to their families. When children no longer get repeatedly sick from contaminated water, they have a better chance of succeeding in school. And together, these things can lift entire communities.”

Thank you! In honor of World Water Day on March 22, Salesian Missions is proud to highlight programs such as this one in Nigeria, funded through our **Clean Water Initiative**. With billions of people currently lacking access to safe, clean water, we must take bold steps toward addressing the root causes of this crisis—or the health and well-being of the entire human race is at risk.

In his 2015 Encyclical on the Environment, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis reminds us that “access to safe, drinkable water is a basic and universal human right ... and a condition for the exercise of other human rights.” Without it, equity and justice remain an impossible dream.

Together with your support, we can ensure the absolute dignity of children and families around the world—one well at a time.

For as little as \$10 a month, you can join the **Clean Water Initiative** and help build wells and bring fresh water to those in need.

Please visit salesianmissions.org/water for more information and to make a secure on-line donation today.



WHAT WAS ONCE MUD AND TIN...



Millions of people throughout Africa, Central and South America and India 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 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.

Now is 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
2022 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: _____

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Salesian Snapshots

a scrapbook of stories from
around the salesian world

COLOMBIA:

Dressing for Success in School and Life



Former child soldiers who once were deprived of their identity, dignity, and trust are rediscovering all three at the Don Bosco Center in Cali. And it all starts with their clothes.

Here, young men and women willingly trade their combat fatigues for the uniform of their chosen profession—a crucial first step, Salesian missionaries say, toward shedding the traumas of their pasts and acknowledging the promise of their futures. Currently, 30 newly attired teens are training for careers as electricians, industrial mechanics, automobile repair technicians, cooks, tailors, beauticians, welders, computer operators, accountants, librarians, and more. Outside of class, youth benefit from comprehensive social and psychological support that helps them rediscover their value, reclaim their purpose, and rejoin society as well adjusted adults.

While the road to full rehabilitation isn't easy for these young men and women, our Salesian missionaries are committed to traveling alongside—armed with Don Bosco's loving kindness.



INDIA:

Growing Mushrooms...and Their Confidence

Last year, missionaries at Don Bosco Tech in Katihar, India noticed a problem that needed solving. With the country's economy effectively shut down due to the pandemic, how could they best support area families whose income had disappeared?

A new mushroom-growing initiative provided the answer.

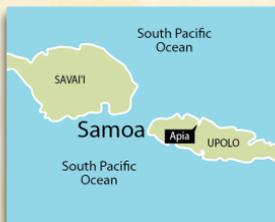


Rooted in Salesian practicality, the program intentionally enrolls women who have never worked outside the home and who otherwise may lack the confidence to do so. Early participants learned the fundamentals of home-based cultivation and were able to launch their own enterprises with minimal up-

front costs. By selling the mushrooms they grow, these women now meaningfully contribute to their families' income. Already, 53 graduates have doubled—and sometimes even tripled—their initial investments in training and supplies.

There are intangible results, too. Trainers observe that formerly shy students have inspired their neighbors, who noticed a positive change in the women's demeanor and earning potential. That's why Salesian-affiliated programs across the region are now interested in bringing the same training to even more women and families!

SAMOA: A Second Chance to Learn



At Don Bosco Technical Center in Alafua, missionaries offer disadvantaged students the second chance they need to secure long-term, livable-wage employment.

Here, young men and women ages 16-22 can train in a variety of areas including carpentry, welding, sheet metal fabrication, auto mechanics, sewing, and more. All courses include both classroom learning and a hands-on work-study experience, which school administrators recently extended from two weeks to four. And the results have been remarkable: four students so impressed the Samoan Water Authority with their know-how and dedication that they immediately received job offers.

These are exactly the kinds of tangible outcomes that missionaries seek. When practical education aligns with local business needs, graduates enjoy expanded and sustainable employment opportunities. This is especially valuable for youth who previously struggled in, or were excluded from, traditional academic settings.



The importance of practical education has been backed by research conducted by the Samoan Qualification Authority, which also found that Don Bosco Technical Center graduates the highest number of students who successfully go on to work in the private sector.

Hope for Homeless Youth



“You want me, right?”

You wanted me here with you, right?”

This is one of the first questions little Veronica asked when she arrived in her new dorm at Hogar Maria Auxiliadora in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Just eight years old, Veronica had been abandoned by her family without her understanding why. And she desperately needed to know that someone still loved her and would take care of her.

Sadly, Veronica’s experience isn’t unusual in her home country, where endemic poverty and unemployment mean that parents regularly forsake their children. “It’s heartbreakingly simple,” explains Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “With no way to feed their families, and no meaningful social support, parents see no other choice.”



And it's not just in Bolivia, Fr. Gus adds. "In so many developing countries around the world, families lack the resources and opportunities they need to build stable, healthy futures. As a result, countless children end up on the streets. They should be playing with their friends during the day and tucked safely into bed at night, but instead they're

fending for themselves."

According to official estimates, as many as **150 million** abandoned, orphaned, and runaway youth live on streets right now. At more than 330 Salesian-run shelters around the world, our missionaries provide safe housing, nutritious food, warm clothing, and life-changing education for thousands of these children with nowhere else to turn.

Hogar Maria Auxiliadora—where Veronica now lives—is one of them.

Located just outside Cochabamba city limits, "the Hogar" is a long-term residential home that offers a stable, structured setting where girls can grow and develop into independent and self-sufficient young women.



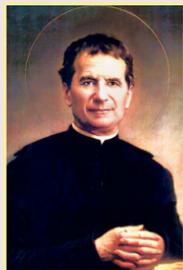
As many as 45 children, ages 2-17, live there at any given time. Residents form close bonds with each other, go to school together, and play sports, pursue enrichment activities, and learn skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

“Programs like the Hogar are absolutely integral to who we are as Salesians,” says Fr. Gus. “Just as Don Bosco himself took youth off the streets and under his wing, so do we. As stewards of his mission, we’re committed to providing the security, encouragement, and education that homeless kids need to reclaim their childhoods, their dignity, and their dreams for brighter futures.”



By all accounts, Veronica has already succeeded in all three. Not only is she thriving in her new home, surrounded by new friends, she’s also earned the nickname *Querida*, from the Spanish “to love”—which reassures this sweet little girl of her worth every time she hears it.

We are grateful for friends like you, who help us restore hope for children like Veronica all over the world.



“Let us carry our crosses with love; let us see that they do not become a burden to others, but let us help others carry theirs.”

Don Bosco

CURRENT SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
JUNE 30, 2021
Lorraine Bloemer, Hamersville OH

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JULY 31, 2021
Judith Keyes, Xenia OH

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
AUGUST 31, 2021
Barbara Styczynski, Douglasville GA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
Donald E Kopp, Greenfield WI

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
OCTOBER 31, 2021
Janet C Moynihan, Saint Peters MO

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
NOVEMBER 30, 2021
Mary Shanahan, Hampton NH

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