



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Spring 2022

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

Gestures of Loving Kindness for Ukraine

Wrapped snugly in a blanket with a warm blue hat perched on his head, Tymofij arrived at a Salesian house in Ukraine* without a care in the world. His mother, on the other hand, suffered more than enough worry for both of them.

This fragmented family had just fled their hometown in search of refuge from unprovoked war. Heeding the call to defend his country, Tymofij's father had remained behind while his precious baby and wife sought sanctuary. Fortunately, they found it in Don Bosco—just as hundreds of others did.

In those early hours and days following the invasion, our missionaries' first priority was to whisk women and children to safety—transporting them across Ukraine's borders in makeshift convoys over grueling terrain. Since then, their efforts have expanded to include thousands of innocent people in desperate need of assistance.



“Sadly, we’ve traveled this road before elsewhere in the world,” says Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “The one positive thing we can draw from it? Our missionaries on the ground know exactly what to do and how to do it.”

Within Ukraine and wherever refugees seek safe harbor, these dedicated Salesians are leading massive relief, relocation, and resettlement efforts. It's exhausting work conducted at a relentless pace, and not without significant risk to their own lives. But our missionaries draw strength from the overwhelming generosity of faithful supporters

around the world—whose compassion fuels their resolve.

“Don Bosco said if brotherly love is like it should be, then the good of one is the good of everyone, the trouble of one is the trouble of everyone,” explains one Salesian priest in Hungary. “We help wherever we can with prayer and deeds.”

From a simple toy placed in the hands of a frightened child to a new place for a mother and her kids to call home, friends like you make these deeds possible: in Hungary and Poland; Moldova and Romania; Slovakia and Belarus; and many places between. And each of these deeds represents an act of loving kindness—whether small or large—that helps restore hope among the people of Ukraine that a better future is indeed possible.

**Please note that in order to protect the safety of our missionaries, we are eliminating their names and precise locations from our reporting.*

This Month's Child



Name: Roleidys
Age: 11 Years Old
Home: Colombia

Roleidys is just 11 years old, yet she's already experienced hardships no child should endure.

In the Los Mártires neighborhood of Bogotá where she's from, extreme poverty contours every corner. Many residents are generationally homeless with few opportunities to reverse their circumstances: one of the heartbreaking legacies of the illegal drug trade that once plagued its streets. Roleidys herself used to spend most of her time on those streets as a way to escape the abuse she suffered at

home. But her risks for violence and exploitation ran high.

Roleidys was often hungry and always afraid ... until outreach workers from the city's Youth Services Organization told her about the Salesian-run Bosconia program. Now, she joins 60 other former street kids ages 5-18 who receive safe shelter, nutritious meals, and support from trained professionals.

Thanks to the generosity of our many friends, Roleidys finally feels loved and cared for in the home environment that every child deserves!

This Month's Call For Prayer

Spring is a season of renewal and rejuvenation. Please pray that suffering children, families and communities in Ukraine and around the globe are given the strength, hope and support they need to resurrect their lives and face brighter days ahead.

Join us every Wednesday at 10am EST for our weekly Chapel Mass - Live Streaming NOW!
Go to our website for details: SalesianMissions.org/mass



Monthly Missions Report...

In Cameroon...



For the first time ever, students enrolled in computer science courses at Don Bosco College Mimboman are learning on up to date computers.

The college, which opened this past academic year, joins a secondary school, vocational training center, and youth oratory in Yaoundé—where Salesian missionaries have been educating vulnerable youth since 1992. Because many residents participate in the area's notoriously exploitative informal economy, missionaries focus on programs designed to elevate students' prospects for sustainable employment.

More than 500 youth are enrolled at Don Bosco College, and the computer science course is popular. Still, students lacked access to current technology until Salesian Missions donors stepped in to provide it. Now, in a dedicated lab with 55 new computers, students can “properly be trained, just as they deserve,” says Father Sabé José Maria. “They are excited and we are thrilled.”

In Ghana...

Life in rural Bono is already incredibly hard. Not having a local, clean water source makes things even harder.

Here, thousands of residents depend on seasonal streams for their everyday drinking, cooking, and cleaning. They walk miles to find these streams, which are unreliable and usually contaminated. And so, families lose precious time: time working in the fields that nourish them, time spent raising their children, time their children spend in school. This very quickly leads to a cycle of poverty that's difficult to escape.

With funding from our Clean Water Initiative, more than 5,000 people across seven villages now have the chance to do so—one fresh glass of water at a time. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, they fill those glasses from their own community wells. As one local woman exclaims, “This has been our dream!”



In Pakistan...

More than 3.5 million people—many of them innocent children—have been uprooted, displaced, and deeply affected by conflict in Afghanistan. At Don Bosco Lahore in Peshawar, Pakistan, Salesian missionaries recently welcomed hundreds of refugees with open arms ... and crucial support.



Working with Peshawar authorities and city administration, they and their dedicated staff coordinated and distributed the aid, which benefits 200 families of various sizes.

Missionaries have been serving in Pakistan since 1998, where Salesian-run schools provide job skills training, scholarships, and living quarters for students from some of the poorest families in the country. Assisting displaced families represents a logical extension to their work on behalf of marginalized youth—and models the ideals of Don Bosco that missionaries hope to instill.

Happily, students at Don Bosco Lahore report being privileged to help others in a spirit of universal humanity.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Daniel Antúñez

Fr. Daniel seeks to reclaim the language of war—and employ it in the quest for peace.

“We want to be militants,” he explains. “Instead of weapons, we must fight poverty and violence with our hearts.”

Already, this president of Missioni Don Bosco in Turin, Italy walks the walk: offering shelter and support to Ukrainian refugees who have left everything behind. It's emotional work, but he remains

focused on the goal to connect them with the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

He also oversees broader efforts to assist displaced families in host communities throughout Europe. Together with Salesian missionaries on the ground, he identifies local needs, tailors services to match, and monitors the effectiveness of every intervention—efforts he labels “unremarkable.”

“We combat hunger, thirst,



loss of home and futures in Syria, Ethiopia, and many other hotspots,” Fr. Daniel says. As quiet champions of human dignity, he hopes the Salesians will help win the battle for lasting harmony around the world.

The Most Effective Weapon is Love

Dear Friends,

We've been waiting a long time for hope's rebirth.

And just as it seemed to emerge—like spring's first shoots unfurling from the ground—something else broke out instead: war in Ukraine.

Another senseless conflict. More shattered lives. If we were to give up on hope entirely, no one could blame us.

And yet: in Ukraine and around the world, our Salesian missionaries soldier on armed with caring love.

Backed by a compassionate army of friends like you, they fight despair at every turn with the best ammunition they have: Education. Clean water. Safe shelter. And more. Poverty and lack of opportunity are formidable enemies, but these dedicated Salesians remain focused on their mission to bring new hope to vulnerable children and families. You have read some examples of their latest successes today.

As my colleague Fr. Daniel observes, we must always fight with our



hearts. And love, as we know, conquers all.

Thank you for selflessly sharing yours with those who need it most.

With sincere gratitude,

Fr. Gus Baek

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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