



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Winter 2024

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

Sunrise Project Shines the Light on Brighter Futures

Thousands of marginalized young people have learned vital employment and entrepreneurial skills through a long-term Salesian vocational training program in Cairo.

Rania Edris Youniss is one of them. Today, through her participation in the “Sunrise Project,” she operates a successful home-based hair styling business—and earns enough money to support herself and her children.

Egypt is both a destination and a transit country for refugees and asylum seekers fleeing wars and conflict in places like Ethiopia, Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea, explains program director Michelle Wright. But labor laws there can make it difficult for outsiders to find work. Many end up living in Cairo’s poverty-stricken areas with no way to improve their situations.

That’s why, with a grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population,



Refugees and Migration (PRM) in 2014, Salesian Missions began the “Sunrise Project” using an existing Salesian-run technical vocational school.

Through scholarships and entrepreneurial seed grants offered by the program, refugees and vulnerable Egyptians discovered new opportunities to gain marketable skills and earn a decent living for themselves and

their families. In addition to vocational education, enrollees learned valuable life and job readiness skills to help them successfully adjust to their new urban environments.

According to Ms. Wright, the additional social services that participants in the “Sunrise Project” received—such as transportation allowances, grocery vouchers, and medical checkups—have proven integral to their success.

“When their basic needs are met, people like Rania are better able to focus on their learning and performance,” she says, “so that they ultimately can meet those needs for themselves.”

Since its inception, the “Sunrise Project” has improved the lives and livelihoods of more than 3,000 vulnerable people.

Although program funding concluded this year, Salesian missionaries hope to sustain the “Sunrise Project,” so that even more people can experience the dawn of new opportunity.

This Month’s Child



Abril was born to an incarcerated mother.

And her father? “I’ve seen him,” she reports. “But he doesn’t love me.”

If Abril’s words are heartbreaking, her early life experience is even more so. With no caring adult at home, this precious young girl took to the streets. Abril should have been in school and at play. Instead, she was a child without a childhood—forced to wash strangers’ cars, amid very real dangers, so she and her siblings could eat.

Abril’s future was dissolving

... before she even knew how to dream of one. Fortunately, Salesian missionaries rescued her and brought her to Canillitas con Don Bosco in Santo Domingo. Here, child laborers are empowered with the education and support they need to reclaim their youth and achieve their potential.

Today, Abril knows how to dream—and dream big.

“I want to be a dentist!” she proclaims.

If her own bright smile is any indication, she most certainly will succeed.

Name: Abril
Age: 12
Home: Dominican Republic

This Month’s Call For Prayer

This winter, please pray that those who are suffering the most will receive the love and support they need to overcome the challenges they face – and the hope and faith that better days are 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 Italy...



Effective communication is an essential skill for all human beings—especially migrants hoping to establish themselves in a new community.

That's why Salesian missionaries at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Rome offer free Italian lessons for recently arrived youth. Each quarter, 130 eager students of various backgrounds, ages, and countries of origin converge in the classroom with one common purpose: to build better lives and futures far from the conditions that drove them from home.

Learning a new language isn't always easy for non-native speakers, of course, but participants consistently prove up to the challenge. They know that Italian unlocks new doors to education, employment, and social connection. And they're supported by teachers who tailor lessons according to student ability and need.

Word about the program has spread so fast, in fact, that demand currently outstrips capacity!

In Myanmar...

Until recently, Salesian missionaries were planning to open a new medical clinic: a way to provide much-needed health care and dignity for the chronically underserved. But a deepening humanitarian crisis affecting millions of people got in the way.

So, these dedicated servants of Don Bosco did what experience has taught them to do: they pivoted.

Instead of asking patients to visit the clinic, missionaries brought the clinic directly to patients—delivering basic medicines to displaced people otherwise cut off from communications, supplies, and services. And when they couldn't establish a direct connection themselves, missionaries sent money to trusted local contacts who purchased and delivered over-the-counter drugs and other necessities to those in desperate need.

In total, 500 people benefitted from this critical initiative. And all of it was possible thanks to generous donors like you.



In Rwanda...

Marginalized young mothers in Kigali are planting the seeds for brighter futures—in the rich soil of specialized job training.

Salesian missionaries have long understood the value of preparing women for employment: self-sufficiency helps them, their children, and their communities escape poverty. But in Rwanda especially, gender barriers historically have stood in the way.

Salesians are helping to change this.



A new agricultural program at Don Bosco Muhazi Technical-Vocational School empowers female students with the marketable skills they need to break into the industry. Enrollees learn how to grow locally relevant crops as well as raise farm animals.

Because many of the women can't afford the necessary tools to work the fields, missionaries proactively address this barrier, too. As part of the course, every student receives overalls, shoes, hoes, rakes, spades, sprayers, soaps, and vegetable seeds so they may graduate ready to launch their futures.

Missionary of the Month: Máximo Herrera

Uganda is a world away from Argentina. Yet within the walls of Palabek Refugee Camp, Salesian Brother Máximo Herrera feels right at home.

He lives as the people live: in a modest shack fabricated from sheet metal. He eats what the people eat: maize and beans. And he goes where the people go: accompanying them through each day, quietly providing the tools they need to rebuild their

lives and futures.

"I really like this aspect of Salesian spirituality, of everyday life," Bro. Máximo says.

Not only does it bring him closer to God—but also it fulfills Don Bosco's educative mission: a mission Bro. Máximo holds close to his heart.

"Don Bosco was very clear that education is the best gift we can offer in Africa," he explains. And so—



whether on the sports field, in the chapel, or around various life skills projects—he uses every interaction as an opportunity to teach. And Don Bosco would be proud.

A Legacy to be Proud Of

As I write my first *World Bulletin* as your new director, I wish to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to lead this remarkable organization.

Reading through the stories in this issue, it's impossible not to feel uplifted by the many good things your support makes possible. In places where poverty and despair could easily test our missionaries' resolve, your generosity offers the encouragement they need to envision and implement programs and services that truly change lives.

And they're doing it in sustainable ways; in addition to offering much-needed care when children and families are hurting, Salesians around the world seek to prevent that hurt through education, job training, economic opportunity, and other initiatives specifically tailored to community needs. You will learn about several of their life-saving programs in this bulletin.

These stories represent the legacy you have built—and the legacy I vow to steward, and strengthen,



with your continued support and prayers. Thank you!

All God's blessings now and always,

Michael Conway, SDB
Father Michael Conway, S.D.B.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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