

SUMMER/FALL 2024

SALESIAN®



Leave a Legacy of Love and Hope... And Help Make the World a Better Place.

One person, like you, can make a significant difference. Your decision to remember Salesian Missions in your Will can bring positive change to the future of thousands of needy children struggling each day just to survive.

Our programs around the world are saving these precious lives... and helping to make the world a better place.

By including Salesian Missions in your planned giving, your heart and soul are forever part of these good works.

So consider leaving a legacy of love and hope that will live on in generations to come.



Please remember Salesian Missions in your Will...



2 Lefevre Lane, P.O.Box 728, New Rochelle, NY 10802-0728
Tel:(914)633-8344 www.SalesianMissions.org/giving

INSIDE THIS ISSUE PAGE

Don Bosco Fambul: Fueling Dreams,
Empowering Futures..... 2

Notes From The Field
A personal account by Salesian
Lay Missioner Grace Loeffler..... 7

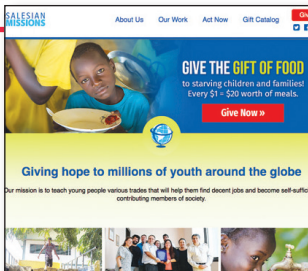
A 75-Year Mission Serving East
Boston's Youth 11

Planting Seeds for Healthier
Futures in Brazil..... 15

Engineering New Opportunities For
Equality in Tanzania..... 20

Salesian Snapshots..... 24

**EXPLORE
AND LEARN
MORE
AT OUR
WEBSITE**



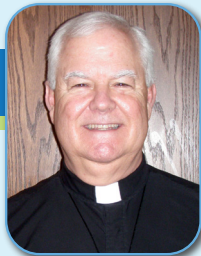
It is filled with even more stories and photos of all the good works YOU help make possible.

So keep visiting us online at:
www.SalesianMissions.org

 www.facebook.com/FindYourMission

 www.twitter.com/SalMissions

 www.instagram.com/salesian_missions



Letter From The Editor



Dear Friend and Partner in Mission!
“We want to uplift and empower the next generation of leaders.”

When I first read these words from my colleague Father Piotr Wojnarowski, director of Don Bosco Fambul in Freetown, Sierra Leone, I immediately nodded my head. For it's in our very DNA as Salesians to provide the practical education that young people need to change the world for the better.

At Don Bosco Fambul and across Sierra Leone, for example, our missionaries offer employment-focused vocational training in disciplines that provide stable income for graduates and support community development, too: carpentry and agriculture; masonry and metal work; and even a tea cultivation project that's transformed an entire village's economy.

And—as you will read in the following pages—this tried-and-true formula beats through our hearts and animates our mission in more than 130 countries around the world.

Whether it's empowering former child soldiers to reverse the tide of systemic despair (p. 2); teaching impoverished women new entrepreneurial skills to support themselves and their families (p. 20); or inspiring kids to build healthier communities; we are helping so many at-risk girls and boys traverse the bridge to brighter futures, built on the pillars of education. And we are teaching them to pay the opportunity forward, too: by leading others across that same bridge, just as Don Bosco intended.

I am forever grateful for friends like you, who make this work possible every day.

All God's blessings now and always,

Fr. Michael Conway, S.D.B.

P.S. Throughout this issue of SALESIAN, you'll notice several ways to demonstrate your continued support. Whether it's a gift that will be multiplied 14 times, building a chapel in someone's honor, or including Salesian Missions in your estate plans, your generosity makes 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.

Don Bosco Fambul

Fueling Dreams, Empowering Futures



More so than almost any other place on Earth, the deck is stacked against youth in Sierra Leone. In fact, daily life there is so challenging that the country consistently ranks near the bottom of the Human Development Index—an independent measure of achievement in key areas including longevity; knowledge; and decent living standards. Yet amid this overwhelming adversity, there's hope for something better: and it starts at Don Bosco Fambul.

Originally founded in 1998 specifically to rescue and rehabilitate former child soldiers, Don Bosco Fambul in Freetown has evolved to become one of the country's leading and multifaceted child welfare organizations. Last December, Father Gabriel Stawowy, assistant director of Salesian Missions, toured the visionary programs and facilities that have transformed the lives of so many vulnerable youth and families throughout the years.

“Salesians in Sierra Leone take a comprehensive, whole-child approach to their work,” explains Father Gabe, whose visit coincided with Don Bosco Fambul's 25th anniversary celebration. “First, by meeting basic needs for shelter and nutrition; then, by adding counseling, education, and career guidance. I was so moved to meet the young people who once were homeless and alone, and who now have dreams and plans for the

future, thanks to the opportunities and support they've discovered."

"We want to uplift and empower the next generation of leaders in Sierra Leone," adds Father Piotr Wojnarowski, director of Don Bosco Fambul.

Here's how Fr. Piotr and his staff approach this vital work.

Don Bosco Mobil

Transformation begins at street level—literally. And that's where Don Bosco Mobil comes in. Established in 2010, the "Don Bosco on Wheels" outreach bus travels to Freetown's most notorious gathering spots to offer meals, clean clothes, showers, and basic health care to children living and working on the streets. Staff also teach Don Bosco Fambul's full complement of programs so that—if and when youth are ready to make a change—they know where to turn for help. To date, Don Bosco Mobil has connected with more than 7,000 at-risk children.

Child Care Center

This short-term rehabilitation and family reunification program serves vulnerable boys ages 7-14 who live and work in Freetown's public spaces. In close collaboration with Don Bosco Mobil and other local referral agencies, the CCC's staff welcome youth into a safe shelter, and offer medical care, psychosocial counseling, quality education, and other vital support. Since 1998, as many as 8,000 boys have come through the program, with over 5,000 of them successfully reuniting with their families. Boys who cannot reintegrate have



the option to join Don Bosco Fambul's long-term Group Home.

Girls Shelter

At the Laura Vicuña Girls Shelter, girls and young women who have survived physical and sexual assault can access safe housing, crisis intervention, and follow-up care. Once they feel ready, residents may also attend school or participate in vocational training programs that will prepare them to live as independent adults, free of the threats of abuse and oppression. Since 2011, when the shelter first opened, more than 1,100 beneficiaries ages 18 and under have progressed through this program. An offshoot program called Girls Shelter+ specifically serves minors who have been forced into sexual exploitation.

Since 2017, over 700 girls have successfully left the streets, entered formal education or vocational training programs, and reintegrated into society.



525 Childline

In 2010, Don Bosco Fambul established the first toll-free, confidential crisis line for children in Sierra Leone. That service, “525,” continues today—offering emergency advice and referrals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the country. A professional team of social workers follows up on serious cases of reported mistreatment and abuse in close collaboration with authorities and other child welfare organizations.

The Childline Project concurrently advocates for children's rights and well-being, and educates and empowers communities to take a stand against child abuse.



Prison Ministry

Established in 2014, the Pademba Prison Project has been a beacon of hope for inmates—many of whom are minors unlawfully arrested and detained indefinitely with no legal recourse. Don Bosco Fambul provides a dedicated counseling center within the prison, where inmates can access mental health services, stress therapy, medical assistance, and reintegration training to ensure they are prepared to rejoin society upon release. A post-prison project provides education, skills training, and housing support. This holistic approach aims not only to address immediate needs within the prison but also to prevent recidivism. So far, this program has served 1,400 people.

Together, Don Bosco Fambul's comprehensive efforts are paying off—in ways that promise to reverse the tide of deep-rooted poverty, violence, and despair that have crippled Sierra Leone for so long.

“We are so grateful for the many generous friends of Salesian Missions, whose support helps make it all possible,” Fr. Gabe concludes.

For more information about Don Bosco Fambul and our programs in Sierra Leone, please visit: salesianmissions.org/dbfambul or scan the QR Code to the right.



JOIN US FOR HOLY MASS!

Now streaming LIVE every week from our Salesian Missions Chapel.

Just go on your computer, type in **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.*

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 \$20,000.00 to build a Village Memorial Chapel.
- Enclosed is my gift of \$25,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in a remote and difficult area.
- Enclosed is my gift of \$30,000.00 to build a Memorial Chapel in the most far removed and neglected area.

SUM/FALL
2024 CH

PLEASE CHECK ONE: **IN MEMORY OF:** **IN HONOR OF:** **DEDICATED TO:**

NAME: _____

Please send me more information. (You can also Email or phone us, if you wish)

Name _____

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

 **SALESIAN MISSIONS** 2 LEFVRE LANE, PO BOX 728 • NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728
TELEPHONE: (914) 633-8344 • Email: chapels@salesianmissions.org

Notes From The Field



A Salesian Lay Missioner Experience

LAY MISSIONER: GRACE LOEFFLER

MISSION ASSIGNMENT: MARIDI. SOUTH SUDAN

Reprinted from Salesian
Summer/Fall 2015



I've been away from my little African village for a pretty long time now. To get specific, it's been a year. This anniversary of sorts drew me mentally and emotionally back to Manguo village in Maridi, South Sudan and into the arms and smiles of countless children in a way that I found to be unexpectedly overwhelming. It hit me hard. The intensity of those memories seemed to demand to be shared.

About a month ago the impossible happened: I made contact with one of the children I worked with in South Sudan. You can't imagine how much I've missed those kids or how often I've dwelt in memories of them since I said goodbye. Photos of them hanging in my apartment, long phone calls with my mission partners recalling tender memories, silly videos on replay, the comfort of my little brother jokingly calling me "Sista Grace" around the house.

When Henry Alex suddenly popped up on my Facebook under "People You May Know," I'm pretty sure my heart stopped for a second. I have not had any

communication with any of the South Sudanese since the day I left them. None of those kids have electricity at home, let alone internet access. Henry apparently became the exception when he moved away for school. He was a kid that was active in every parish and school function during my time there, was always eager to share his heart with me, and his family having become my second family away from home. Contact with Henry of all children was one of the most precious and exciting ways to reach back into that life which I cherish and sorely miss.

So, I sent Henry a Facebook message. As I wrote, all I could think about was this teenage boy sobbing into my shoulder on that horrible morning when I said goodbye to my African village probably forever. Henry stirs a long list of memories – leading games at parish picnics, hours of studying together before finals. Henry would regularly pick the fattest passion fruit in his garden and bring it for me after school. Calling him one of my best friends would not be an overstatement.

Not only did Henry respond to my message, but his brief words were piercing. I will loosely quote him, so the grammar and vocabulary choices don't distract from the message. What he shared was this: "Missing you so much! I pray for you daily. There is one thing you taught me that I will never forget in my life. Before you came, I was different. When you came, I saw you always smiling. From that moment, I learned how to smile too. Thank you for that. I'm glad we are able to talk with each other, my heart was longing for it. Send my greetings to all of your relatives and friends. God bless you!"

Inexpressible joy. If there is a single way for me to summarize my personal mission when I left for Africa, and in my life both before and after, it was just this – that I could radiate the joy of Christ through simply being my genuine self, that His love would be evidenced by my smile. I didn't have anything extraordinary to offer those people. I only wanted them to know that they are loved. I prayed for it every day while I was there and have prayed that same prayer every day since. God is faithful, and my prayers were answered. If no one else, just one person, sweet Henry, was impacted by that love of God through me. — Mission Accomplished!



So what now? I spent a long time battling with purpose and fulfillment after departing from an experience that was saturated in it. It was easy to return to my home routine, but it immediately proved impossible to live the simplistic life I once had. Becoming a pediatric nurse was a new opportunity to love in that intentional way again, and my life has been beautifully unfolding since my return. I have been blessed and am so grateful.

In the sadness of moving on, I find incredible hope in Henry's words, as they express everything I want and desire, everything I am capable of and called to in this life. Every Christian is called to be a missionary – we are called to spread love wherever we go, no matter the physical location. I have tremendous peace and solace in this truth, and I challenge every single one of you who ever reads these words to embrace and live that call, wherever you are now and wherever you may go in life. You make a difference.

“Let us love, since that is all our hearts were made for.”

– St. Therese of Lisieux

God bless.

Grace



The **Salesian Lay Missioners** is a faith-based volunteer program that offers a unique opportunity to serve the marginalized of the world, especially the young. 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 Le Fevres Lane

New Rochelle NY 10801

(914) 633-8344

Or visit our website at:

www.SalesianLayMissioners.org

or email us at: SLM@salesianmissions.org



The Gift That Pays You Even More!

Help poor children around the world and receive a fixed income for life with a **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**. Rates increased effective January 1, 2024. **Don't miss the opportunity!**

Age	Old Rate	New Rate
65	5.4%	5.7%
70	5.9%	6.3%
75	6.6%	7.3%
80	7.6%	8.1%
85	8.7%	9.1%
90	9.7%	10.1%



**Receive a
guaranteed annual
income for life!**

Additional Benefits

- A current income tax deduction
- Tax free income on a portion of the income received
- Reduced capital gain tax (on appreciated securities donated)

REQUEST YOUR PERSONALIZED ILLUSTRATION:

- Call our Annuity Officer Ana Maria Lang:
Tel: 914-633-8344 Ext. 206 or Email: amlang@salesianmissions.org
- Visit our website at: www.SalesianMissions.org/annuity or
- Fill-in and return the form below

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

SUM/FALL
2024 AN

Send me more information about the returns and tax deductions I would receive under the Salesian Missions Gift 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 _____

Tel. #: _____

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
TEL: (914) 633-8344

SALESIANS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

In 1897 the first Salesian missionaries (Priests & Brothers) settled in California. Salesian Sisters soon followed, arriving in New Jersey in 1908. Being a missionary in the U.S. at the time was difficult and challenging – but the good works progressed. Today over 450 professed Salesian Priests, Brothers and Sisters are present in the United States and Canada. Salesian Provinces based in Haledon NJ, New Rochelle NY, San Antonio TX and San Francisco CA serve thousands of young and poor throughout both countries. Their ministries encompass day care centers, elementary and high schools, formation houses, religious education centers, parishes, summer camps, development offices and youth centers. Thankfully, the spirit and joy of Don Bosco is still alive today in the U.S. and Canada!

A 75-Year Mission Serving East Boston's Youth *Salesian Boys & Girls Club - Byron Street, Boston*

This past December, kids from several different communities in and around East Boston convened at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club on Byron Street for a holiday vacation camp. They learned new things. They made new friends. They went on field trips, played sports, and enjoyed a daily nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

Beyond providing fun and enriching activities for youth, this



annual camp offers crucial support for working parents who need a safe place for their children to go when they're not in school. And in many ways, it's a contemporary reflection

of a vision first realized more than seven decades ago.

Bearing Don Bosco's Torch

Shortly after World War II, the Salesians arrived in East Boston with one overarching goal: to serve a burgeoning immigrant population disembarking to its shores from Ireland, Italy, Poland, and beyond. Like so many before them, these hopeful newcomers sought brighter futures in America. Instead, many faced discrimination, exploitation, and exclusion.

And that's where the Salesians stepped in. Moved by the same values that Don Bosco himself embodied while ministering to marginalized youth in Turin, they imagined a vibrant and economically secure community empowered by education, opportunity, and respect. Their foundational program—a youth oratory in the heart of East Boston's immigrant enclaves—supported working parents and their children by offering safe, constructive, and supervised afterschool activities.

Soon after, the Salesians opened Don Bosco Technical High School; transformed the original oratory into



Saint Dominic Savio High School; and opened a new youth center on Paris Street. Together, these robust and complementary programs are succeeding. They have supported the development of countless first-generation teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, professional athletes and—most of all—students invested in their families, their communities, and in giving back.

Igniting the potential of future generations

Although both high schools have since closed, what is now the Salesian Boys & Girls Club remains a long-time, trusted resource for families across East Boston and its environs—including Winthrop, Revere, Lynn, Chelsea, and the North End.

“We know that when we work as one, we can move our young people and families forward,”

says Executive Director Michael Triant, who assumed leadership of the Club in 2018. “Our work with young people—especially those who need us most—is the focus of all of our efforts. The Salesian Boys & Girls Club gives kids and caring adult professionals the chance to collaborate and advocate in the name of a stronger community.”

These efforts are just as crucial now as they were in 1945. According to Mr. Triant, many children within the Club’s service area remain affected by poverty, social exclusion, and other barriers to their future success.

“The East Boston neighborhood, like the majority of Boston neighborhoods, is in constant transition with the changing social, ethnic, and economic dynamics of the city and the greater metro area,” explains Brother Bob Metell, the Club’s director of food services. “We continue to tailor our programs and services to meet the evolving needs of the community.”

At any given time, the Club offers a variety of programs in

the arts, sciences, athletics, education, and more—all for an affordable \$4.17 per week per child, a cost that also covers meals and healthy snacks. Close to 3,100 youth ages 6-19 participate each year. A sample of current offerings includes:



Academic support

Success in life starts with success in the classroom. Each afternoon during the school year, kids can visit the Club’s education center for assistance. Tutors, many of whom are local teachers and parents with subject matter expertise, are available to help with homework and more.



Sports and fitness

The Club is equally invested in helping youth get and stay active and healthy. Members can participate in daily fitness classes; play in seasonal basketball and soccer leagues (with the added benefit of learning teamwork and sportsmanship); open gym activities; and more.

Girls' Gym

This small group focuses on health, fitness, self-esteem enhancement and the developmental needs of girls of all ages. Participants explore and develop their own values as they build skills for eating healthy, staying physically fit, and understanding positive peer and adult relationships.

Teen program

Open every weekday, the Teen Center offers members a place to relax after school, spend time with friends, play board games, complete homework, use the computers, and much more.

Arts and music

These programs help young artists tap their creativity through drawing, painting, sculpture, and photography. Individual and group musical instrument instruction

further engages youth in the worlds of performance and production—and builds their confidence, too.

Cooking Club

This hands-on program currently ranks among the Club's most popular. Participants learn everything about preparing healthy meals, from building an ingredients list, to creating a shopping list and budget, to cooking and serving their creations. And the best part? They get to enjoy what they've made.

Thanks to two annual fundraisers—and a long list of committed, like-minded community business partners—the Club succeeds in keeping its programming affordable for all.

“Our mission has always been to instill a sense of competence, usefulness, and belonging—and to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens,” Mr. Triant concludes.

By all measures, his organization is on the right track.

For more information on the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston, visit www.salesianclub.com.



Planting Seeds for Healthier Futures

Ever since indigenous peoples first began farming the land, “Brazil” and “agriculture” have nearly been synonymous. The country’s rich soil, copious water, and abundant sunshine make farming a viable economic choice both for small family enterprises and large industrial operations alike. That’s one reason why Salesian missionaries in São Paulo work to cultivate connections with the land among urban impoverished youth.

“It’s true nearly everywhere—even here in the United States—that the further people get from fresh, healthy food, the more they risk



obesity and other chronic diseases,” observes Father Michael Conway, director of Salesian Missions. “Living a fast-paced, city lifestyle is one reason people might choose nutritionally poor food: it tends to be more convenient,” he says. “But poverty is

an even stronger driver—because processed food is cheaper.”

Students at the Salesian-run Recanto da Cruz Grande School in Itapevi are shaped by both realities: their feet are firmly planted on concrete rather than in the soil; and their backgrounds are deeply rooted in poverty. But a new gardening project is planting the seeds for healthier futures—for them, their communities, and the environment, too.

For the past several months, these young students have been learning how to grow their own gardens for food. They have prepared the dirt, nurtured the seedlings, and watched excitedly as their vegetables grew and thrived.

After harvesting their crops, “the students washed the food and gave it to our cook, who will lovingly prepare a special dish so that they can taste what they themselves have planted,” reports one of the Salesian educators involved in the project. “The aim is to encourage healthier eating and teach youth to work with, respect, and cultivate the environment.”

Recanto da Cruz Grande offers education and socio-educational activities for children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 in the region.



The gardening project dovetails with the school’s mission to empower at-risk kids and strengthen family ties through education. Not only that, it’s part of a broader initiative known as “Growing in Citizenship.”

Inspired by Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si’*, this initiative helps youth better understand and develop their personal role in caring for their local and global environment. In tending their gardens from planting to harvest, they learn to understand the relationships among soil, water, and nutrients. They develop sustainable cultivation and composting techniques, and contribute to the fight against hunger in local families by focusing on community-scale production.



As their teacher Rosiene says, “Being part of this project is an opportunity for me to be a better citizen.”

For more information about our work in Brazil, please visit: salesianmissions.org/Brazil or scan the QR Code below.



"We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." Matthew 2:2

Join Us In *Anticipation for Christmas!*

Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation of Christmas. Sign up for our Advent Devotionals and each week during Advent, you will receive a special email with daily Scripture passages and inspirational messages. These reflections will guide you toward a more joyful anticipation of Christmas – and reconnect you to the true reason for the season.

Sign Up Now

www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent



A Perfect Christmas Gift!

Sum/Fall 2024

Our Heavy Knit SALESIAN THROW

Designed exclusively for Salesian Missions, this cozy, cable knit throw proudly displays our mission logo.

Knitted of soft, warm and comfortable machine washable cotton, it measures a generous 48" x 63". Natural color.

Suggested Offering: \$70.00 Free Shipping!

ITEM		QTY	SUGG.OFFERING	TOTAL
50048	CABLE KNIT THROW		\$70.00 each	
Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery			TOTAL OFFERING ENCL.	



ENCLOSE CHECK, M.O. (TO SALESIAN MISSIONS) OR CHARGE:



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

SIGNATURE _____

EXP. DATE (MO/YR)

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

Name _____ Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

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

OR ORDER SAFELY ONLINE AT www.SalesianMissions.org/throws



ENGINEERING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EQUALITY

When you educate a girl, you educate an entire society. So goes a well-known adage in Africa. Still, many societies on the continent remain resistant to gender equality, which makes education challenging for girls to acquire. Recent graduates from a Salesian school in Tanzania serve as an inspiration.

“One of the most interesting aspects of this school is the strong female representation in sectors that in the past were traditionally dominated by males,” says a Salesian missionary at



Don Bosco Kilimanjaro International Institute for Telecommunications, Electronics and Computers (Don Bosco KIITEC) in Arusha. Here, 36 students—roughly one-third of them young women—recently accepted their diplomas with joy.

“This is interesting within the Tanzanian context,” explains Father Michael Conway, director of Salesian Missions. “But it’s not at all surprising within the Salesian context. In fact, Salesian institutions across Tanzania are specifically committed to opening educational doors for girls.”

One Salesian high school in Didia was the first and only in the region to accept female students, for example. Beyond primary and secondary schools, missionaries also have invested considerable resources into expanding technical education opportunities for young women.

“Many Tanzanian girls and their parents don’t even realize they can attend vocational training courses,” says Fr. Mike. “Technical education there has long been considered a male stronghold ... but with our missionaries taking the lead, that attitude is beginning to evolve.”

An ongoing campaign, “Binti Thamani” (literally “precious girl”), works to raise awareness among teachers and parents about equal education for boys and girls. This includes technical training and vital employment opportunities.

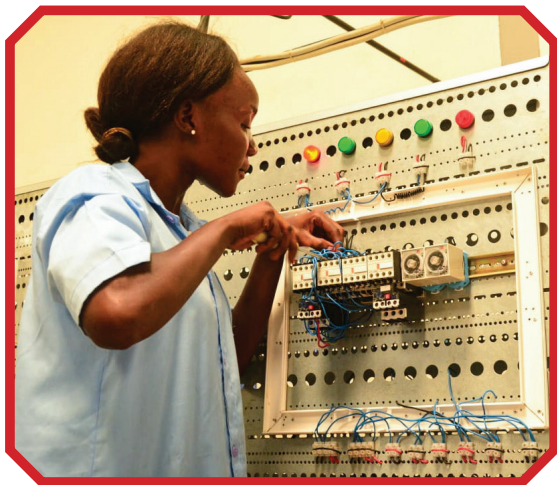


In the time since its inception, Binti Thamani has reached well over 3,000 young women—some of whom now study at and will graduate from Don Bosco KIITEC.

Here, students can access some of the most advanced training technologies available in the region, including electrical engineering with industrial automation; renewable energy; computer science; and electronics and telecommunications. Accredited by the National Council for Technical Education, Don Bosco KIITEC awards successful graduates with a three-year National Technical Award Level Six diploma.

“We know that educated girls and young women are better equipped to live as independent adults, and to make positive decisions that affect themselves, their families and their communities,” Fr. Mike concludes. “They also support the growth and development of their country as a whole—which is important, since a strong Tanzanian economy will continue to require qualified professionals. And that includes women.”

For more information about our work in Tanzania, please visit: salesianmissions.org/Tanzania or scan the QR Code below.



Salesian Snapshots

a scrapbook of stories from around the Salesian world

INDIA: Incubating Dreams, Nurturing Futures



Recently, a new cohort of students enrolled in Northeast Venture—a Salesian-run professional training course for female entrepreneurs.

Offered through Hub Jorhat, a fledgling initiative of the Bosco Institute in Assam, Northeast Venture is a flagship program with ambitious goals: to empower women with the skills and resources they need to achieve long-term financial stability.

For the next six months, 25 students selected during a competitive application process will

strengthen their foundational business knowledge; develop viable financing and marketing plans; and learn how to pitch their ideas clearly and effectively. At the end of the program, students will test their pitches, and the most convincing will earn seed grants. Past winners have launched food-focused, technology, and upcycling enterprises, among others.

Hub Jorhat is part of the Bosco Institute's broader mission to foster social stability, ecological sustainability, and traditional wisdom through entrepreneurial innovation.





LEBANON: Scholarships for Marginalized Youth



High-level training is one of the best ways for youth in Lebanon to improve their opportunities and optimism for the future.

At Don Bosco Technique in Fidar, Salesian missionaries offer courses in mechanics, electricity, hairdressing, computer science, and many other job-ready disciplines. One of the school's most sought-after programs trains students in catering and hospitality services, where a large global employment sector awaits their graduation.

Due to a deepening economic crisis, more than 80 percent of Lebanon's population now lives in poverty—and youth face disadvantages that are hard to overcome. That's why Don Bosco Technique enrolls a significant number of marginalized students each term.

“Poor youth are less likely to complete their education, which limits their employment opportunities,” explains Father Timothy Ploch, former interim director of Salesian Missions. “We are proud to provide scholarships for these deserving students, thanks to our many generous friends.”

To learn more about Don Bosco Technique's innovative culinary training program, visit salesianmissions.org/cooking-up-hope-for-lebanese-youth



**Any goods, services, or funds provided by Salesian Missions to programs located in this country were administered in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including sanctions administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control.*

PHILIPPINES: Youth Accompaniment, the Don Bosco Way



Don Bosco once famously said, “An oratory without music is like a body without a soul.” To this day, his belief in the power of music—and its centrality to human development—enhances the Salesian approach to youth education around the world.

And kind friends like you help make it happen.

With donor funding from Salesian Missions, kids at Don Bosco Boys’ Home in Liloan now experience the joy of musical expression and the confidence that comes with learning an instrument: neither of which they previously could have dreamed of. That’s because residents hail from backgrounds of entrenched social exclusion—pushed to the margins by poverty with limited access to education, culture, housing, and employment opportunities. The Boys’ Home provides all four as a pathway to achieving dignity and self-reliance.

On 15 newly purchased accordions, Brother Alexander Abelgas provides lessons for 45 students at the Boys’ Home and the greater community.



Those who become proficient will have the chance to accompany Mass and other celebratory events. Certainly, Don Bosco would approve!

UGANDA: Fostering Unity, Dignity, and Confidence



Children attending Don Bosco Primary School near Kampala understand what it means to be poor.

“I was not going to school before because my grandmother could not afford the fees,” explains 9-year-old Mbabazi Prosper. And he’s not alone. Among the students currently enrolled at Don Bosco, most would not be there without financial assistance. Even then, the incidental costs—for textbooks, uniforms and necessary supplies—prove insurmountable for many families.

Thanks to generous support from our donors, that has changed for 200 students most in need, including Mbabazi. Now, these children have new uniforms, athletic attire, books, pencils, and other supplies necessary to fully participate in their educational experience. Each stands on equal footing in the classroom, ready to learn in an environment of dignity and respect.

“Now I’m sure I will succeed in the future,” Mbabazi exclaims. “We are all grateful!”



CURRENT SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
MAY 31, 2024
Stephen C. Keers, Indianapolis IN

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
APRIL 30, 2024
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ngo, Monrovia CA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
MARCH 31, 2024
Jerry R. Hill, Indian Valley VA

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
FEBRUARY 29, 2024
Mary Thomas, Stafford VA

WINNER OF GRAND PRIZE
JANUARY 31, 2024
Humberto T. Contreras, Monterey Park CA

WINNER OF EARLY BIRD PRIZE
DECEMBER 31, 2023
Marlene L. Thilges, Wood Dale IL

WE RESPECT YOUR PRIVACY...

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

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

Attn: Donor Services
SALESIAN MISSIONS
2 LEFEVRE LANE, PO BOX 728
NEW ROCHELLE NY 10802-0728
TEL: 914-633-8344
Email: info@salesianmissions.org

Your Love in Action!



These youngsters are proudly wearing their "Hope Bracelets" - a cherished gift that you helped give them.



Due to so many of you who responded so generously to our Easter Cards Appeal... a poor child in our missions received a "Hope Bracelet" to wear in appreciation of you - and your love for them.

What joy it is to see the smiles on these children's faces and to realize how such a simple gesture can bring so much happiness.

We will continue to distribute "Hope Bracelets" to even more of our mission kids. In this way, in a true sense, you are there with them, always reminding them of your goodness and compassion.

