



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Summer 2025

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

Technical Training Builds Brighter Futures

Imagine growing up where scraping by is how you get through each day, and food insecurity is a way of life. Your community has pride, but that's about all it has. There's a lack of education, and virtually no way for youth or adults to gain employable skills. It's difficult to see a positive path forward.

That's why the Salesians recently opened the Artisanal Training Center, located in Bomboiza, Ecuador. The Center provides impoverished residents with educational and vocational training opportunities that are proven game-changers.

Now members of the community can pursue a path forward equipped with practical skills that lead to gainful employment. Graduates from the Center's training facility become proficient in information technology, cosmetology, hairdressing, and other subjects.

A favorite among students is the patisserie track. Participants learn to take basic food ingredients and



transform them into artistic edible creations that are culturally rich and commercially valuable. The recipes derived from the process are shared with neighbors and become a great source of local pride.

"The initiative reflects our commitment to holistic development for youth and adults, especially women, by providing an education that meets market demands while highlighting local talents and skills," explains Father Michael Conway, Director of Salesian Missions. "The program supports entrepreneurship, encourages community sharing, and boosts family income."

The Artisanal Training Center is yet another example of how the Salesians are delivering hope and opportunity where it's needed most. In Ecuador, known as one of the world's most inequitable regions, the poorest 20% of the population receives only 5% of the national income. Tragically, one out of every four

children under the age of five has stunted growth – and that number grows to nearly one out of every two children among indigenous communities.

Students who attend the Center are deeply appreciative that they've been given the chance to break free from poverty and misery through education and training. They savor their accomplishments and are elated by their prospects for a brighter future. They know their newfound knowledge and skills will enable them to care for themselves and their families and grow to become contributing members of society.

This Month's Child

Florina was a flourishing teenager when her life was suddenly turned upside down. Originally from Mosul, Iraq, she and her family had to abandon their home and flee the war-torn country amid violence and hostility.

Her family has temporarily settled in Lebanon while they await transfer to another country. As a refugee, Florina is not allowed to attend public schools and her parents are prohibited from seeking jobs. Their search for a better life is troubled.

Thankfully, however, there's

a ray of hope at the Salesian-run Angels of Peace School. The school enables displaced youth to continue their education while benefiting from psycho-social support programs that offer comfort to heal their traumatic experiences.

Florina sees the opportunity to get an education as a blessing, and she works hard at her studies. She knows that knowledge is the key to a brighter future for herself regardless of her status in life. While being a refugee is temporary, having an education is forever.



Name: Florina
Age: 14 Years Old
Home: Lebanon

This Month's Call For Prayer

While most students embrace the summer months as a time to enjoy a break from classes and homework, please pray that poor children in many parts of the world gain access to an education that will enable them to escape the grip of poverty.

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 El Salvador...



1,869 young people are pursuing exciting opportunities at the Salesian-run Ricaldone Technical Institute in San Salvador, El Salvador. The enthusiasm centers around the expansion of a solar energy project consisting of over 400 solar panels which convert sunlight into electricity for the school.

This enhanced power system will function as a practical training module for students to gain knowledge and expertise in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

In addition to offering educational opportunities, the solar panel project will also save money. The renewable energy source will reduce the school's environmental impact and cut electricity consumption by 45%. The associated savings will be used to increase financial aid for low-income students.

Innovative programs like these are opening new doors for impoverished youth eager to realize their full potential.

In Peru...

Indigenous children are often left behind and forgotten as new cultures take over their native land. As a result, this abandoned population suffers from extreme poverty, depression and low esteem.

That's why the Salesians in Peru have launched a new educational initiative for the indigenous youth in the Achuar communities of Kuyuntsa, Checherta and Yankuntich.

Already, 200 children are participating in the workshop which is elevating their quality of life and lifting their spirits. They are learning Spanish as a second language, engaging in group activities, building friendships, and discovering ways to generate income to support their families.

Most importantly, these vulnerable children are gaining the confidence, knowledge and skills to expand their horizons, integrate with society, and pave the way toward a brighter future.



In South Sudan...

As violence escalates in South Sudan, Salesian missionaries continue to offer comfort and support to the unfortunate victims. Families, mostly women and children, have been forced to flee their homes in the dark of night in fear that the violence would overtake their communities and cause great harm to their children.



In Juba, the capital of South Sudan, the Salesians have provided aid to more than 6,000 displaced people, many who have been living at Salesian facilities for more than 13 years. At the Juba educational center, 3,000 children and young adults are gaining an education thanks to the dedication of our missionaries despite dire circumstances.

What's more, the Salesians are helping to ease suffering through social development services, nutrition programs and health clinics. These heroic efforts are made possible through the kindness and generosity of friends like you.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Sony Joseph Pottenplackal

Growing up in Kerala, India, Sony Joseph Pottenplackal found himself inspired by Don Bosco's life and the stories of the many Salesian missionaries serving in his country.

Immediately after finishing the 10th grade in 1989, Sony joined the Salesian Seminary; in January 2005, he was formally ordained into the order before his family and friends in his home parish.

Fr. Sony served at home

for several years in a variety of educational and administrative roles, including as principal of Don Bosco High School in Amguri, Assam.

But soon, the missionary vocation beckoned with a call he enthusiastically answered in 2012—first, as vice-rector of Don Bosco Fambul in Freetown, Sierra Leone; then, as rector and principal of Don Bosco Technical High School in Monrovia, Liberia, where he



continues to live and serve today.

Currently, Fr. Sony coordinates and oversees technical skills training and social intervention projects to benefit disadvantaged youth.

You Bring Stability and Hope Where There's None

Dear Friends,

Right now, I'm looking at a stack of papers on my desk. They're requests from our missionaries around the world. They're desperate for funding to support their lifesaving work. If not for you, I'd be overwhelmed. But knowing that caring friends like you stand behind us, I can approach that pile with confidence. Thanks to your generosity and kindness, many of their needs will be fulfilled.

Hungry families will receive nutritious meals. Impoverished

communities will benefit from clean water supplies. Refugees will have a safe place to live. And a countless number of impoverished kids will gain an education that'll be their ticket out of poverty.

As you read the stories in this issue of the World Bulletin, I hope they reinforce the impact you make, and I pray that they inspire you to continue your remarkable support.

Thank you for everything you do to help those in most need. I'm deeply grateful!



All God's blessings now and always,

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



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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