

# Ex ALLIEVI Newsflash

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English Edition

(translations: Sandra Pistilli)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## The power of that defenseless babe conquers all the powers of the world

*This year more than ever before, we realize the truth of these words of Isaiah: «The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: to them that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, light is risen».*

Dear readers of the Salesian Bulletin, friends of the Salesian charism,

We stand at the threshold of Christmas. How beautiful is everything that Christmas brings.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: *«Dear friends, the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord which we shall soon be celebrating invites us to practice this same humility and obedience of faith. The glory of God is not expressed in the triumph and power of a king, it does not shine out in a famous city or a sumptuous palace, but makes its abode in a virgin's womb and is revealed in the poverty of a child. In our lives too, the almightiness of God acts with the force — often in silence — of truth and love. Thus faith tells us that in the end the defenseless power of that Child triumphs over the clamor of worldly powers»* (General Audience of Wednesday, December 19, 2012).

*«In the night of the world let us still be surprised and illumined by this act of God which is totally unexpected: God makes himself a Child. We must let ourselves be overcome with wonder, illumined by the Star that flooded the universe with joy. May the Child Jesus, in coming to us, not find us unprepared, dedicated only to making exterior reality more beautiful»* (General Audience of Wednesday, December 22, 2010).

I think that for most of us preparing for Christmas and Christmastide, with the season's different feastdays and parties, touches our hearts deeply. Perhaps some people do not understand in their hearts what this wonderful Mystery of God's Presence - His Love - means, though many do. That notwithstanding, Christmas is always a beautiful time of humanity, of grace, of the desire for Peace, and of Hope.

Even as we stand in the light and beauty of Christmas, of the Mystery of the Presence of God, we are not unaware that we are truly living "a night of the world." We are living in a time of pain, of despair, of war, of deaths. How timely are Pope Benedict XVI's words, though he wrote a decade ago, years before the moment in which we are now living.

- We cannot ignore the war that is taking place in Ukraine.
- We do not forget the thousands and thousands of lives that have been cut short as a result of the sin of war and the death that it sows everywhere.
- We do not ignore that thousands and thousands of people are displaced in Ukraine and that other hundreds of thousands of people live hidden in subhuman conditions, without light or heat and with little food.
- In addition to Ukraine, there are currently 29 other war and guerrilla hotspots in the world suffering the same effects of death and desolation.
- More than 35,000 murders occur annually in some Latin American nations.
- The number of the poor in Europe (we who thought we were completely secure) has increased by more than double the number when com-

pared with two or three years ago.

- We have not managed to end world hunger; instead, it has increased.
- Catastrophic fires and floods, the result of climate change on our suffering planet, warn us with increasing frequency and force.
- At the most recent summit on the climate, the nations that pollute the most were not even present, as if the problem had nothing to do with them...

Cannot what I have just described be defined as a "*night of Humanity*"? It is Pope Francis himself who speaks without hesitation of a third world war, covert in one way or another.

So, where can we find, discover, experience the fruits of the Incarnation and of that first Christmas from more than 2,000 years ago? And where can we experience the Life that comes to us from the Resurrection of the Lord?

Do we have a reason for Hope? Or does the dark night keep us from finding it?

During this time, Pope Francis has returned often to the topic of Hope, urging us to look at our life with new eyes – especially now that we are undergoing a severe trial – with the eyes of Jesus, "*the Author of Hope*". The certainty that the darkness will turn into light will help us overcome these difficult days. Hope is "*a virtue that never disappoints: if you wait, you will never be disappointed*" (Pope Francis). It is a virtue that surprises even God. In one of his poems, the great French Catholic writer Charles Peguy puts these words into God's mouth: "*The faith that I love most, says God, is Hope... What surprises Me... is Hope*".

Indubitably, though we are faced with so much night, there is also so much life: the Life that Mary of Nazareth brings to us in her newborn Son. The life of so many children whose mothers bring to light with immense love, in God's Name. The life of so much anonymous generosity on the part of millions of people every day who reach out to their neighbor, to the needy, and to the elderly who are alone.

Life is what so many anonymous people give away when they fight so much darkness and pessimism in silence. Life is, it seems to me, what is sown every day in thousands and thousands of Salesian presences around the world where, through a gesture, a smile, a piece of bread or a plate of rice, or in a moment of encounter, light and Hope are sown instead of death from bombs. All this, I believe, is the fruit of Christmas, of the Incarnation of the Son of God, of the Resurrection, and of the God of Life – for He always has the last word.

Blessed Christmas,

Don Ángel Fernández Artime,  
Rector Major



# Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all past pupils and friends of Don Bosco from around the world

Dear Past Pupils and friends of Don Bosco.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all past pupils and friends of Don Bosco from around the world especially the readers of *Exallievi Newsflash!*

Christmas is a special time of the year when we remember the birth of baby Jesus. May all of us open their hearts to the Christian values that are embraced by our organisation – Life, Freedom, and Truth. This time of the year helps us to reflect how as past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, we are promoting these values in the place of work, in our families and in the community that we belong.

As past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, it is our role to promote solidarity in action especially with the young people in the Salesian spirit. In the Strategic Plan, we have prioritised our strategic objectives to focus on journeying together (synodality), mission, spirituality, and solidarity. These four dimensions are our focus that will guide us in these years to come.

When we come to an end of the year, we tend to reflect on our past year, evaluate our present and plan for the future. As an organisation, we are undergoing a process in which we ask the question: What kind of past pupil and friend of Don Bosco we want to be for the 21st century? We are living in a changing world. Change is happening around us all the time and as an organisation, we also need to change to be effective in the world that we live. Change is a challenge. Challenges will help us grow.

Let us journey together to embrace the changes that are necessary but ensure the guiding principles and values which we have inherited. I invite everyone to join us in our journey together and contribute to the renewal of our worldwide organisation.

Christmas is a time of giving – a time when we show solidarity to people in need.

As past pupils and friends of Don Bosco, it is our responsibility to support children and young people. When Don Bosco spoke to Carlo Gastini regarding the forming the association, Don Bosco asked Gastini that the past pupils should help the young people in the Salesian work.

During this year, the World Confederation has worked on three social projects: Helping Ukrainian Orphans living in Salesian Houses, Helping a Salesian School in Haiti to set up new IT Laboratory and Helping poor Street Children in Burundi. There are many Federations and Local unions who are reaching out to children and young people through various solidarity projects. Christmas is a time when we renew our energy to commit ourselves in supporting the work with young people as asked of us by Don Bosco.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Regards

Bryan Magro  
World President



# Being a good shepherd for young people



We celebrate Christmas every 25 December of the year, do we remember Jesus' birthday? Do we remember an important historical event for us? Do we remember an act of love by a God made man to show his great love for humanity? Not only that! What is Christmas? The birth of Jesus! is the newness that allows us to be reborn within each year, to find in Him the strength to face every trial. Yes, because his birth is for us, for each one of us.... *"Today a Saviour is born for you" (Lk 2:11).* (Pope Francis' Homily 2020). The shepherds are the first recipients of the Good News, the angel says to them *"Do not be afraid: behold, I announce to you a great joy, which will be to all the people: today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11).* The baby Jesus had his first contact with the shepherds who come to see him after receiving the announcement of the angels. The image of the shepherd is much loved by Jesus. Many times he used it in his teaching to people, he spoke of himself as the Good Shepherd: *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". (Jn 10:11).*

Don Bosco was also inspired by the Good Shepherdess in the 9-year dream, she is given to John Bosco as the teacher for his Preventive System. The Preventive System is a methodology of "goodness": that is, a visible and familiar love that knows how to provoke a response of love and creates a climate and an environment of loving-kindness. All of us are called to be shepherds for the poor and needy young people around us, helping us to live as Don Bosco expected: *"wherever you are, always show yourselves to be good Christians and good men..."*.

On that night, the shepherds were the guests of Christmas. They went without delay and simply discovered the sign that the angel had pointed out to them: *"You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Lk 2:12).*

This is the sign of all times to find Jesus. Not only then, but also today. If we want to celebrate true Christmas, let us contemplate this sign: the fragile simplicity of a tiny newborn baby. God comes to the world small. His greatness is offered in littleness. God is so in love with our littleness that He Himself makes Himself small to meet us.

Do we have a divine perspective to see His plan in small things? Can we accept this plan of God? This is the challenge of Christmas: God reveals Himself, but men do not understand Him. He makes Himself small in the eyes of the world and we continue to seek greatness according to the world, God lowers Himself and we want to ascend, God seeks humility and we pretend to appear, God seeks shepherds, the invisible; we seek visibility, we seek to be seen. God does not seek strength and power, he asks for tenderness and inner littleness. (Pope Francis). God wants to come in the small things of our lives, he wants to incarnate and inhabit the everyday realities, the simple gestures, the good words we say at home, in the family, at school, at work. Jesus invites us to value and rediscover the little things in life.

In the Rector Major's Strenna for next year, he reminds us of Don Bosco's recipe for holiness that he gave to Dominic Savio:

- First: cheerfulness. That which troubles you and takes away your peace does not please the Lord. Cast it out.
- Second: your duties of study and prayer. Attention at school, commitment to study, pray willingly when invited to do so.
- Third: do good to others. Help your fellow students when they need it, even if it costs you some trouble and effort.

A whole programme of how to be leaven in the small space where God has planted us.

With this leaven, let us prepare good bread for this humanity that hungers for charity, justice and peace.

Merry Christmas to all!

Dominic Nguyen Duc Nam SDB



## Don Bosco: "Take care of the young before they take care of you"

Dear Past Pupils and Friends

education is the number one problem in modern societies. The older generations complain about an overly constrictive education, and this is partly true. But the new generations suffer from too libertarian an education, without any restraint or limits.

In a materialistic society like ours, in which everything seems to have become permissible, instead of calling young people to authentic behaviour, also lived in renunciation and sacrifice, we have only offered them "social ideals" or superficial "human values". Instead of such dreams and ideals, there is a lot of loneliness around, except for worldly stunts that then leave a bitter taste in the mouth.

Isn't it easy to be young today? We recall Don Bosco's original insight in the words he spoke in Paris during his triumphant visit in 1883: «*Take care of the young, before they take care of you*».

That invitation is also always repeated by Don Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major and ten<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco, in every visit to the numerous Salesian Institutes and Houses distributed around the world: «*I find working with young people an invigorating and encouraging experience. Young people are often criticised, yet among them there is much goodwill, generosity, a desire to share experiences and knowledge. On our part, we must help them to direct their strengths correctly and stimulate solidarity*».

As Past Pupils of Don Bosco we have a specific contribution to make: to believe in youth, to bet on education, to promote the Preventive System, convinced that Don Bosco's choice to address social problems is not only the right one, but also the most effective.

The young have within them the contagion of enthusiasm, vitality, optimism. They are the true protagonists of the long-awaited "future", which we must recognise as "*already present among us*", precisely in the lands most tried by suffering, injustice, abuse of power, every form of oppression. And our thoughts, dutifully, go to Ukraine. To the ongoing war. To Russia's extreme greed for imperial power.

When Pope Francis (a former pupil of Don Bosco, let's remember!) started hinting at a "*third world war in pieces*", it was not an occasional externality.

First uttered on 18 August 2014 in a conversation with journalists on board the plane taking him back to Rome from Seoul. We read in the periodical "*Limes*" (page 29 of February 2016, by Virginio Ilari) that the phrase was repeated on the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Italian Shrine of Redipuglia. Again, on 6 June 2015 in his speech at the Sarajevo stadium, on 14 November commemorating the Paris massacre on TV2000 and on 15 December for Peace Day.

So, let us roll up our sleeves and start again from today!

St. Philip Neri used to encourage by shouting: «*It is not time to sleep; Paradise is not made for armchair people! Throw yourselves into God, throw yourselves into God! And know that if He wants something from you, He will make you capable of what He asks of you*».

It is precisely in favour of the Ukrainian population that the charitable work of the Salesians is being highlighted. With young people in the front line. Confirming that Don Bosco found young people as they were and helped them to become what they should be. But he added: «*Do good without appearing. The violet lies hidden, but it is known and found by its scent...*».

If all Salesian education is geared to forming "*honest citizens and good Christians*", this means that the identity and mission of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco is to be found in this pair. We are not islands, or if we are, we must be points of docking and departure, not inaccessible reefs.

It is precisely the Holy Christmas that represents the living node of time, marking a before and after for all humanity. On the true, historically ascertained "*birth of Jesus Christ*" not only Christians agree, but also the majority of non-believers. While all, when narrating history, say "before Christ" or "after Christ".

It is difficult to talk about Christmas as it is experienced today and to see what has remained of the ancient feast and what has been modified to adapt to the changing times. Above all, it is complicated to grasp the true meaning of this feast: a great moment of commercial promotion or a human encounter, or an intense revisitation of the religious mystery?

The Christmas message is not an ideology, it is not a watchword. It is addressed to everyone and is directed to the depths of the heart. Accepting Christmas means not rejecting the invitation to peace, to the goodness that descends from it. It means rediscovering ourselves in God children of the same Father and in Christ brothers of the Son of God.

Reclaiming Christmas implies a pause in the hubbub and alienation of our convulsive world. A pause for reflection for all.

I want to express a special wish: that this Christmas may break the chains of war and loneliness. May the newfound peace bring serenity and allow one to feel less alone.

Merry Christmas to all!

Pierluigi Lazzarini

# «DO ALL THROUGH LOVE, NOTHING THROUGH CONSTRAINT» (Saint Francis de Sales)

In the fourth centenary of the death of St Francis de Sales: two giants in continuity with one another in the Salesian charism

## 7. "All through love":

so that "they may gradually assume the responsibility for the delicate process of their growth as human beings and as men of faith".

One element that runs through all Salesian spirituality (of Francis de Sales) is the great value given to prayer.

I have referred in these pages to some forms of devotional expression such as to the Sacred Heart, the fundamental attitude of trust, abandonment into the hands of Providence, the awareness of having an "inner sanctuary" in us, the friendship with God that we must cultivate, and to the goodness of God who never refuses his help to those who do all they can and are faithful in small things.

One can perceive in all this the pastoral zeal of Francis de Sales, his patience with everyone, his kindness, optimism, fortitude and also his desire to communicate the good news of the Gospel to all. This is all the result of his profound and simple, daily relationship of true friendship with God. His prayer life is his personal love story with God, of his progress and what he did to avoid his relationship with the Heart of his heart, the centre of his life, growing cold.

For Francis de Sales, prayer as communication with God is the heart of the person who speaks to the Lord's heart. It is the prayer form of embodied spirituality. God is not only God of the human heart but is the "friend of the human heart".

*Prayer allows us to find this heart of God and conform our hearts to His.*

«We unite our understanding to God to behold and penetrate the features of his infinite beauty; and upon the seventh, we join our wills to God, to taste and experience the sweetness of his incomprehensible goodness; for upon the top of this ladder, God bending towards us, gives us the kiss of love, and makes us taste the sacred breasts of his sweetness, better than wine». <sup>51</sup>

Francis de Sales experiences prayer as a dia-



logue of hearts in which God takes the initiative.

A friend's present is always grateful. The sweetest commandments become bitter when they are imposed by a tyrannical and cruel heart. Jacob's service seemed a royalty unto him, because it proceeded from love... Many keep the commandments as sick men take medicines, more from fear of dying in a state of damnation, than from love of living according to our Saviour's pleasure. On the contrary, the loving heart loves the commandments; and the harder they are, the more sweet and agreeable it finds them, because it more perfectly pleases the beloved, and gives him more honour. <sup>52</sup>

It is about loving God's will, putting it into practice, and finding the best support for accomplishing it in prayer. The key to this spirituality is that we turn to prayer to be with the One we know loves us, to make the beating of our heart coincide with that of the Master, like the beloved disciple, to contemplate, since prayer is not about thinking much but loving much; and to rest in Him, as a way to recover and find the strength to continue loving.

## Charity as the measure of our prayer

Charity is the measure of our prayer because our love of God is manifested in our love for our neighbour. This is the "prayer of life" that

is so important for St Francis de Sales<sup>53</sup>. It consists in doing all our activities in love and for love of God, so that our whole life becomes a continuous prayer. Those who do works of charity, visit the sick, assist in the courtyard, give time to others to listen, welcome those in need... are praying. Commitments and occupations should not hinder union with God, and whoever practises this form of prayer does not run the risk of forgetting God. When two people love each other – Francis de Sales concludes – their thoughts are always for each other. The simple means he suggests for achieving union with God – a question so dear to our spirituality as sons and daughters of Don Bosco – are ones we recognise in the practices of piety Don Bosco proposed for his boys and his first Salesians.

To those who are busy with temporal things, he advises finding moments, even very short ones, of recollection to unite the heart to God with brief aspirations, short prayers and good thoughts, or to just be aware of God in our spirit. While in the midst of conversations or activities, we can always remain in God's presence. In this way, true prayer does not neglect the obligations of daily life. Anyone who has experienced all this recognises that Francis de Sales lived what he advised and taught others. What he did, he did for God and in God. He considered this "active prayer" better than

<sup>51</sup> FRANCIS DE SALES, *Treatise...*, op. cit., XI, 12.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, VIII, 5.

<sup>53</sup> Cf. M. WIRTH, *San Francesco di Sales*, 160.



the others. When he was overwhelmed with tasks and commitments, he devoted almost no time to formal prayer: "his life was a continuous prayer".<sup>54</sup>

Francis de Sales offers the degrees of prayer in the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, closely following the example of St Teresa of Jesus (vocal, mental, contemplative and silent prayer). For our daily practice, it would be worthwhile to elaborate on the value of meditation for Francis de Sales, who considers that just as a watch is wound up so as not to stop, so prayer and time devoted to the Lord in meditation and examination of conscience, and other practices of piety, keep alive our zeal, our apostolic ardour, and our desire to belong to God. It is good to find moments to retreat into your heart, away from the hustle and bustle, and have a heart-to-heart conversation with God.

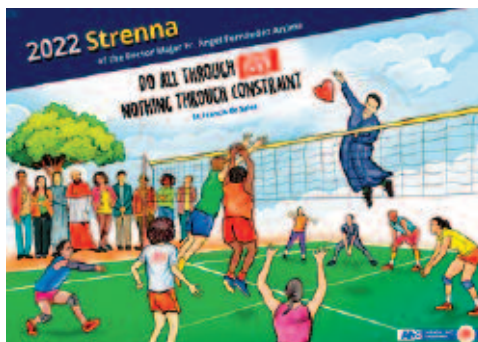
There is no clock, however good, but must be continually wound up; and moreover, during the course of each year it will need taking to pieces, to cleanse away the rust which clogs it, to straighten bent works, and renew such as are worn. Even so, any one who really cares for his heart's devotion will wind it up to God night and morning, and examine into its condition, correcting and improving it; and at least once a year he will take the works to pieces and examine them carefully;—I mean his affections and passions,—so as to repair whatever may be amiss. And just as the clockmaker applies a delicate oil to all the wheels and springs of a clock, so that it may work properly and be less liable to rust, so the devout soul, after thus taking the works of his heart to pieces, will lubricate them with the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist. These exercises will repair the waste caused by time, will kindle your heart, revive your good resolutions, and cause the graces of your mind to flourish anew.<sup>55</sup>

When the process is a genuine one, prayer leads to action and vice versa. The added value is that prayer is practised with simplicity and with the abandonment of "ask for nothing, refuse nothing". And this helps to purify the motivations for following Christ, allows us to be

guided by God and readies us to be genuinely free.

### Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Let us turn to this Mother and call on her motherly love

I will only make a brief and concise reference to this, but I want to emphasise that human growth in faith also finds a model in Mary, the



mother of Jesus<sup>56</sup>. St Francis de Sales said that the work of the Visitation, founded together with Jeanne de Chantal, would have as its symbol a heart pierced by two arrows, crowned by a cross, surrounded by a crown of thorns and with the holy names of Jesus and Mary engraved on it. Mary's role in Francis de Sales' theology is identical with that of the Second Vatican Council. She is placed firmly in the heart of the Church. And her mission is to "attract and lead all people to her Son"<sup>57</sup>. This is why Francis de Sales encourages us to join with Mary, like the disciples, to receive the source of unity, the Holy Spirit.

Honour, revere and respect the Blessed Virgin Mary with a very special love; she is the Mother of our Sovereign Lord, and so we are her children. Let us think of her with all the love and confidence of affectionate children; let us desire her love, and strive with true filial hearts to imitate her graces.<sup>58</sup>

Furthermore, the figure of Mary, model of all virtues, presented as "clothed in Christ", walks the path of humility like her Son, with her total dependence on God, available to him; she receives God's generosity in abundance. When she sings the humility of her servant in her *Magnificat*, it is because she has attracted God's gaze.

Finally, the Salesian trait of devotion to the Virgin, our mother and guide, corresponds to the trust that Don Bosco placed in Mary as the *Consolata* (Consoled), Mary Immaculate and Help of all of her Son's brothers and sisters.

She cooperates in God's plan of salvation and, in the words of Francis de Sales, God made Mary "pass through all states of life, so that all people may find in her whatever they need to live well in their own state of life"<sup>59</sup>. In her we see what God is ready to do with his love when he finds willing hearts like Mary's. By emptying herself, she receives the fullness of God. By remaining available to God, He is able to accomplish great things in her.

Mary's contemplation, with her life and her yes to God, invites us to open ourselves to God's love in the knowledge that the heart of Jesus, on the tree of the cross, contemplates us and loves us. In Mary we see completed the true destiny of our heart, the heart of God.

### Francis de Sales, a Christian humanist who communicates God

There is another characteristic of Francis de Sales for which he is perhaps best known in the cultural circles of our world: he is the Patron Saint of journalists. At a time when communication is carried out in many ways, with its undeniable advantages and defects, Francis de Sales stands out for a value that gives dignity to the journalistic profession: the search for and dissemination of the truth.

In 1923, when Pope Pius XI declared Francis de Sales patron of journalists,<sup>60</sup> he pointed to his principal characteristics as a communicator. His gracious manner of holiness showed others, through his writings, the sure and simple way of Christian perfection.

Demonstrating, as Francis de Sales did, that holiness is for everyone and that it is perfectly reconcilable with all the offices and conditions of civil life, also involves knowing how to communicate the contents of faith and religion in simple, understandable and pleasant language. And this is the Salesian virtue and characteristic of communicating the truth, using

<sup>54</sup> Cf. M. WIRTH, *San Francesco di Sales*, 160. In a note, he refers to this fact in the letter from Chantal's mother to dom Jean de Saint-François, in JEANNE-FRANÇOIS FRÉMYPT DE CHANTAL, *Correspondance*, t. II, 305.

<sup>55</sup> Cf. FRANCIS DE SALES, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, op.cit. V, 1.

<sup>56</sup> EUNAN McDONNELL, *God Desires You*, p.127-135.

<sup>57</sup> Cf. DEA XXVI, 266. Quoted in EUNAN McDONNELL, *God Desires You*, p.128.

<sup>58</sup> *Introduction to the Devout Life*, II.16.

<sup>59</sup> DEA IX, 342. Quoted in EUNAN McDONNELL, *God Desires You*, p.134.

<sup>60</sup> PIUS XI, Encyclical Letter *Rerum Omnium Perturbationem*, 26 January 1923.

every possible means so that the proclamation reaches everyone and helps everyone to understand the message that is intended to be transmitted.

This desire to communicate the truth of the Gospel was accompanied by an unparalleled creativity and originality, such as the posters he hung in public places or distributed under doors when he did not have a pulpit to give his catechesis to the people of God who had been entrusted to him as their pastor. In this simple, free and accessible way he made himself present.

In his encyclical for the third centenary of the death of Francis de Sales, Pius XI spells out the fundamental principles which are still current and worthy of consideration as a model of upright, professional and honest behaviour.

*It is Our wish that the greatest fruits should be gained from this solemn Centenary [the third centenary of the death of Francis de Sales] by those Catholics who as journalists and writers expound, spread, and defend the doctrines of the Church. It is necessary that they, in their writings, imitate and exhibit at all times that strength joined always to moderation and charity, which was the special characteristic of St. Francis. He, by his example, teaches them in no uncertain manner precisely how they should write. In the first place, and this the most important of all, each writer should endeavour in every way and as far as this may be possible, to obtain a complete comprehension of the teachings of the Church. They should never compromise where the truth is involved, nor, because of fear of possibly offending an opponent, minimise or dissimulate it. They should pay particular attention to literary style and should try to express their thoughts clearly and in beautiful language so that their readers will the more readily come to love the truth.*

When it is necessary to enter into controversy, they should be prepared to refute error and to overcome the wiles of the wicked, but always in a way that will demonstrate clearly that they are animated by the highest principles and moved only by Christian charity. Since St. Francis, up to this time, has not been named the Patron of Writers in any solemn and public document of this Apostolic See, We take this happy occasion, after mature deliberation and in full knowledge, by Our Apostolic authority, to hereby publish, confirm and declare by this encyclical, everything to the contrary notwith-

*standing, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Church, to be the Heavenly Patron of all Writers.*<sup>61</sup>

We have here a valuable commitment to truth and its proclamation, to the Salesian style of goodness and gentleness, to simple proclamation and to the right intention of getting the proclamation of truth out to everyone, always seeking the good of people.

In addition to what we have just said, proclaiming, announcing the faith entails another important aspect to consider because Francis de Sales was faithful to it. As Bishop of Geneva, he was always concerned with the evangelisation of the people of God and especially with catechesis.

We cannot lose this charismatic value as Don Bosco's Family. Communicating the message of the Gospel so that it may be lived is part of our charism. The Salesian Congregation, the Salesian Family, were born from a simple catechism lesson<sup>62</sup>. The Church has recently instituted the Ministry of Catechist<sup>63</sup>.

We are offered a wonderful opportunity to revitalise our evangelising dimension with these perspectives.

Let us not forget that Don Bosco, too, with the means he had at his disposal at the time, published three hundred and eighteen works over the course of forty years, because, like Francis de Sales, he was convinced that a good word or a rich reading could do great good.

<sup>61</sup> Pius XI, Encyclical Letter *Rerum Omnium Perturbationem*, 26 January 1923. Italics and parentheses are mine.

<sup>62</sup> The meeting with Bartholomew Garelli in the Church of St Francis of Assisi, 8 December 1841. "[...] I stood up and made the sign of the cross to begin; but my pupil made no response because he did not know how to do it. In that first catechism I taught him how to make the sign of the cross. I also taught him to know God the creator and why he created us. [...] This was the beginning of our Oratory. It was to be blessed by the Lord with growth beyond my imagining at that time." Cf. ISTITUTO STORICO SALESIANO, *Fonti salesiane. I. Don Bosco e la sua opera. Raccolta antologica*, LAS, Roma 2014, documento n. 309: "Memorie dell'Oratorio di S. Francis de Sales dal 1815 al 1855", p. 1237. *Memoirs of the Oratory of St Francis de Sales*, Salesiana Publishers, New Rochelle, New York, 2010, p. 104-105.

<sup>63</sup> Cf. FRANCIS, Apostolic Letter in the form of the "Motu Proprio" *Antiquum Ministerium*, 10 May 2021 (Liturgical Memorial of St John of Avila) with which he instituted the ministry of catechist.

Whatever the effort, it was nothing to him if it meant gaining someone's good and salvation. Finally, it was always Francis de Sales' intention to reach out to everyone and proclaim the salvation and liberation that God's Love offers. This became a reality in the particular and amiable way he practised pastoral zeal, going out to visit, meet, seek and encourage people in various ways.

The founding of the Order of the Visitation together with Jeanne de Chantal, speaks to us, in the language of the time, of this "Church going forth" proposed by Pope Francis, a Church which goes out to meet anyone who wants to hear the message of Jesus.

The image of Don Bosco visiting the boys during the week in their places of work, the image of Francis de Sales visiting his parishioners and leaving a message of faith and love for God under the doors of their homes, the inspiring image of the Virgin Mary visiting her relative Elizabeth, should encourage and enthuse us, and be pretty much a challenge to us.

## Conclusion

We too, as a Salesian Family, need to make the "charism of the visitation" explicit as a desire of the heart to announce, without waiting for others to come to us, going into areas and places inhabited by so many people for whom a kind word, an encounter, a look full of respect can open their horizons towards a better life.

*In short, going out to meet young people, wherever they may be and in whatever situation, continues to be our most distinctive feature, confirming Don Bosco's desire to love what young people love so that they will love what we love, spreading the Salesian spirit, our "Valdocco option", wherever the desire to be with young people takes us, living a true "Salesian sacrament of presence", and the commitment to carry out "small charity works". This is how we were born and this is how we want to follow Don Bosco, who found in Francis de Sales a model and a kindred spirit, a sort of soul mate. May the anniversary we are celebrating this year help us to continue to grow in our dedication to poor and abandoned youth with the Salesian charism of Don Bosco imbued with the spirit of St Francis de Sales.*

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## SOMETHING TO READ OVER ONCE MORE AND REFLECT ON, AND FOR OUR HEART TO DWELL ON

Let me end this essay with some thoughts from St Francis de Sales, Don Bosco, Pope Francis, and even from what I have written myself.

Perhaps these, among others, might help us to reflect, be something for our hearts to dwell on after reading the Strenna. Among others, I have "collected" the following:

- The charity and kindness of St Francis de Sales will guide me in everything.
- "Nothing through constraint" is a beautiful proposal, an invitation to make it a precious gift of our personal life.
- As a Tridentine bishop and a promoter of the Catholic counter-reformation raised in the struggle against lukewarm faith, he chose *the life of the heart and not that of constraint*. And all he was doing was contemplating and living God's attitude.
- God's intervention, his grace, never takes place without our consent. He acts forcefully, but never to oblige or constrain, instead to attract the heart, not to violate, but *out of love for our freedom*.
- God, as Francis de Sales used say, draws us to himself through his kind initiative, at times as a vocation or call, at times as the voice of a friend, as an inspiration or invitation and at times as a "prevention" because he always anticipates. God never imposes himself: he knocks at our door and waits for us to open it.
- We do not believe it possible to educate without sacred respect for the freedom of every individual. Where the freedom of the individual is not respected, God is absent.
- The strength of God's attraction, powerful but not violent, lies in the sweetness of his attraction.
- Far from excluding love for others, the Salesian mystical experience, this love of God we are speaking of, demands it.
- the human being, the young person, every individual, each of us, carries the need for God,

the desire for God, "a natural inclination for God", inscribed in our being.

- God is present and makes himself present to each individual in those moments of their life that only God himself chooses and in the way that only God knows.
- Both Francis de Sales and Don Bosco make daily life an expression of the love of God which is received and also returned in exchange. Our saints wanted to bring the relationship with God closer to life and life closer to the relationship with God. This is the proposal of "next-door-neighbour holiness" or "the middle-class of holiness" which Pope Francis speaks to us about with so much affection. "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them 'the middle class of holiness.'"
- God does not love us because we are good, but because He is good.
- Fulfilment of God's will is not achieved through feelings of "unworthiness", but through hoping in the mercy and goodness of God. *This is Salesian optimism*.
- *Francis de Sales responds to God's love with love*.
- I will love you, Lord, at least in this life if it is not granted me to love you in eternal life; I will love you at least here, my God, and I will always hope in your mercy.
- Francis de Sales' crisis revealed the deepest part of his being: a *heart deeply in love with God*.
- The conviction that God's love is not based on feeling good, but on doing the will of God the Father, is the core of Francis de Sales's spirituality and must be the model for the whole Family of Don Bosco.

- move on from the consolations of God to the God of consolations, from enthusiasm to true love
- Passing from falling in love to true love for others.
- Do all through love, nothing out of fear, because it is the mercy of God and not our merits that urges us to love.
- If St Augustine said that "our heart is restless until it rests in Thee"<sup>64</sup>, by following the thinking of Francis de Sales we could say with von Balthasar "Your heart, O God, is restless, until we rest in You."
- Don Bosco wants *love for Christ to lead us to love for the young*, a Salesian characteristic of our life and an ongoing challenge for Don Bosco's Family today and always.
- His prayer life is his personal love story with God.
- For Francis de Sales, prayer as communication with God is the heart of the person who speaks to the Lord's heart. It is the prayer form of embodied spirituality.
- Prayer allows us to find this heart of God and conform our hearts to His.
- Charity is the measure of our prayer because our love of God is manifested in our love for our neighbour.
- This is the "*prayer of life*": It consists in doing all our activities in love and for love of God, so that our whole life becomes a continuous prayer.
- It is good to find moments to retreat into your heart, away from the hustle and bustle, and have a heart-to-heart conversation with God.
- In her we see what God is ready to do with his love when he finds willing hearts like Mary's. By emptying herself, she receives the fullness of God. By remaining available to God, He is able to accomplish great things in her.

<sup>64</sup> AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, *Confessions*, I, I.

# "AS THE YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY. The lay dimension in the Family of Don Bosco"

## Poster of Strenna 2023



(ANS - Rome)

The two posters selected by the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime to illustrate the message of his Strenna for 2023: "AS THE YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY. The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco" were released today, 24 November 2022.

The option of animating the Salesian Family with two different images is therefore renewed once again this year, because both are able to represent the proposed theme well, each enhancing different accents, styles and suggestions.

The first of the two posters is the work of the Office of Social Communication of the "St. Anthony" Province of Portugal, and it clearly expresses the industriousness and liveliness of the Salesian Family at the service of young people all over the world, both yesterday and today.

The proposed illustration is inspired by the affection and family dimension that united Don Bosco and Mamma Margaret to the young people welcomed at the Oratory in Valdocco.

In presenting the poster, the artist Nuno Quaresma from the Communications Team of Portugal, explained the details and significance of his work of art:

*«It represents, allegorically, the humble and loving courage with which, even with limited resources, a House was built, where filial connection to the founder, love and faith in God, mutual trust, fraternity and joy, were the fertile ground for a community that never stopped growing. The simplicity of the food prepared, in the foreground, and the austerity of those serving at the table, on the right of the image, evokes the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes.*

*In the scene, Don Bosco, Father and Teacher, leads and organizes these young people, who are his own now, who are hungry, who need a shepherd, so that they may find within themselves the gift of solidarity, of loving zeal for small tasks, of shared bread, those who need to know that they are the good yeast, that helps to grow and makes the "bread of the Human Family" greater and tastier.*

*The large clothing line, which blends with the landscape and background, symbolizes the many who, even if not visible, make up this huge family.*

*Brightness floods the image, from its right side, and reminds us that everything that is deeply human is impregnated by the Divine's light. Both this and the other poster are available in digital format at the bottom of the page in the languages most widely spoken in the congregation; for editions in other languages, the editable file is also made available».*

# One hundred personages represent the Don Bosco Family

## Poster of Strenna 2023



(ANS - Rome) - 24 November 2022

The second illustration for the poster of Strenna 2023 shows one hundred personages rich in details and expressions and is the work of the [Spanish artist Agustín de la Torre, Salesian Cooperator and teacher](#).

The author demonstrates a strong desire to reflect in his artistic work all the fruitfulness and extension of the Work of Don Bosco in the world, in harmony with the proposal of the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, for the theme of the Strenna 2023: "[AS THE YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY. The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco](#)".

The author explains that his composition features one hundred different personages. In the centre is Don Bosco, surrounded

by some essential personages for the Salesian spirituality that are easily recognizable: Mother Mazzarello, Mamma Margaret, Dominic Savio, Blessed Michael Rua, Laura Vicuña...

As well as the current Rector Major and the Mother General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the most recent Salesian saint, Artemide Zatti.

*«Everyone looks joyfully ahead - as Don Bosco used to say - and looks at the spectator who is also part of this beautiful project, of the dough that has grown, through the leaven of Salesian spirituality and the Preventive System.*

*In the colours of everyone's clothes or skin, there is also the universality of the Salesian charism, rich in diversity, positivity, creativity and of course, the Gospel».*

According to Agustín de la Torre, all the personages together fully express the motto of "[the Yeast in the human family](#)", which has grown and continues to be nourishment for the Salesian Family today, especially when one pauses to look at the diversity of each person depicted. Another interesting feature is that affectionate look at the children, adolescents, young people, adults, men and women, missionaries and religious from all over the world who, thanks to the author's artistic zeal, are portrayed here, accompanied by various elements that express the Salesian Spirituality.

*«I reiterate my joy at once again being one of the authors of the Strenna poster», concluded Agustín de la Torre, «expressing through my art my happiness and gratitude to Don Bosco».*



## United States



# Rector Major captivated by American youth: "You've left a marvelous impression on me!"



(ANS - Los Angeles) - 18 November 2022

On the third day of his visit to the United States West Province (SUO), yesterday, Nov. 17, Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime continued his acquaintance with the Salesian presence in the Los Angeles area.

The three main highlights of his day were visits to *Saint John Bosco High School* and *Don Bosco Tech* in Rosemead, and, back in Bellflower, the Eucharist in honor of Saint Artemide Zatti, celebrated together with Salesian Family members.

Fr. Á.F. Artime's morning had opened with the Eucharistic celebration he presided over with the Salesians, the lay people involved in the Salesian mission, and the young people present in the "*Saint John Bosco High School*" house.

«*It is something very meaningful to celebrate the Eucharist with all of you: this is what Don Bosco did every day*», the 10th Successor of the Saint of Youth said on the



occasion. Next, moving among the different facilities of the same work, the Rector Major went to the institute's new gymnasium, freshly renovated: in front of the stands filled with students and staff of the center, the Rector Major received tributes from the educational community - including a school sweatshirt - and gave the solemn blessing to the new basketball court; and to inaugurate the facility, he also threw a shot at the basket, the first "official" one of the renovated institute.

In his address to all present afterward, Fr. Á.F. Artime said he was favorably impressed by the "*Salesian brotherhood*" seen in the student community, and urged the boys and girls to cultivate and preserve it, even beyond their years of study.

The Rector Major's day then continued with a stop at Don Bosco Tech in Rosemead; greeted with all the tributes by the Salesian community, staff, and faculty of the center, and later by the student band - which performed, playing some famous



rock songs by U.S. bands; before kicking off the other scheduled activities, the Rector Major was also offered a Mexican-style outdoor agape time.

Then began the long sweep to the various workshops and labs of the work, a boys' high school and college that boast a long tradition and excellent record of teaching technical disciplines. In visiting it Fr. Á.F. Artime showed great interest in the laboratories, the disciplines taught, and the methodologies used, but especially in the young students and [alumni of the Center](#), inquiring about their present in the school and their dreams for the future.

All this served as a preamble to the moment of the direct meeting with the center's students: it was a moment that developed in two parts: first, the more intimate one, in the chapel, during which the Rector Major spoke open-heartedly with the youngsters; and then the more festive one, in the gymnasium, with artistic and technical skill performances by the youngsters, and the musical response, on



guitar, by the Tenth Successor of Don Bosco.

On this occasion, too, the Rector Major did not fail to emphasize the typically Salesian atmosphere of joy and cheerfulness that he experienced, and he pointed out that such a family spirit is not learned as content in the classroom or in the laboratory, but is breathed in those environments that truly live and carry forward the spirit and charism of Don Bosco.

And in his greeting to the students, openly appreciating their enthusiasm, welcoming spirit, and cultural diversity, he commented, «*This being the first time I have met any, I could not imagine what the young people of the United States were like... You have left a marvelous impression in me!*». At the end of the day, Fr. Á.F. Artime presided over Mass with the Salesian Family in honor of St. Artemide Zatti, in which he retraced the path of sanctification taken by the Salesian coadjutor, under the banner of humility and trust in Mary Help of Christians.

## United States



# Rector Major Meets with Young Adults in New Rochelle

(ANS – New Rochelle) – 24 November 2022

Following a morning spent with the students of *Salesian High School* in New Rochelle and a tour of the offices of *Salesian Missions*, on November 23rd Fr. Ángel Fernandez met with about 30 young adults who are mostly graduates of Salesian high schools. He noted his satisfaction in many of his visits around the world at discovering how many alumni of the Salesian schools return to teach there; indeed, four of the young men taking part in this meeting are graduates of Salesian High School and now teach there.

Fr. Ángel asked each young adult where he or she is studying at present and what they are studying. After hearing the great variety of answers, he recalled a conversation with high school students in the morning and promoted the study of philosophy (in which one of the young adults said he's majoring). He said that he's happy this group has "*clear dreams*" for their future. They've lived the Salesian charism in their school days, which is a life experience they can't learn in university.

In his worldwide travels, the Rector Major meets Salesian alumni everywhere. The young alumni are enthusiastic and creative about their future. Many of them have a priority of giving an opportunity to those coming up behind them.

These young alumni have a special characteristic: they are the future of the Salesian charism. There are millions of Salesian alumni who carry our charism in their hearts, notably the Salesian family spirit, and they carry it into their own family lives. This



extraordinary factor is the best result of a Salesian education.

Fr. Ángel told the young people never to give up spreading the Salesian values they learned in their Salesian schools.

Then he posed a question to them: «*What do you carry with you that you learned in your Salesian school?*».

He got answers like these:

- Education involves more than a classroom. It's about making a family.
- I formed Christ-centered friendships.
- I learned to understand different kinds of people.
- I learned service to others.
- Young people are crucial to the Church.
- I was an only child. The Salesian Family became my brothers and sisters.
- Life is hard, and we desire stability. Salesian is a comfortable place that offers four pillars of balance.
- I got a well-rounded education with faith as my foundation.
- I'm not alone in life; I get family support from my Salesian friends.
- I learned Salesian joy and fun, which I bring to my work with little kids.

Fr. Ángel commented that in European Salesian schools the students experience af-

fection from their teachers; they don't find that kind of closeness in university. They treasure it. They're also challenged to think deeply about life.

He continued, forecasting that the young people would have careers and satisfying lives. In university they'll take exams and graduate.

But there are basic issues that the university won't examine: responsibility, kindness, humility, an ability to listen, what it means to be human.

These are the most important things in life and indicate what kind of person one is. Life tests you in ways that the university won't. However important what learns in university is, one's happiness in life depends on these factors.

Fr. Ángel has found that some employers come to Salesian schools looking to hire the best persons, not the best technicians. Cultivating one's humanity is the best opportunity. He urged the young people to develop their religious lives and to invest in their Salesian and human values.

Asked by one of the Salesians what advice he would give to these young people, Fr. Ángel urged that they pay attention to what's really important, especially their relationships with others and the dispositions of their hearts. Being able to communicate is an indication of success. The great success of our Salesian schools is that our young people experience communication, presence, and freedom.

by Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB



Spain

# Regional Youth Meeting of Past Pupils of Don Bosco from Zona Sur

## *Regional Federation of Don Bosco "Maria Auxiliadora" Alumni, South Zone*

Alumni of Don Bosco "Zona Sur".

September was coming to an end, and with it, a countdown began because the reunion was just around the corner. We could feel the desire to hug each other, the nerves for everything to go well, the intrigue to meet new people, the fear of being new to this great experience, but, above all, we could feel the love we have for each other.

The big day arrived! The house of Pozoblanco welcomed us with a big smile in the Salesian school San José and full of enthusiasm we got ready to start the meeting with prayer. After this, we made the presentation of the meeting around this year's motto **"TO LOVE AND TO BE LOVED"**.

After beginning with the formal presentation presided over by the young president of the federation, Rafael Ángel Zafra Jiménez, the first contact was made. Rafael Zafra, together with the president of the Pozoblanco Youth Group, Auxiliadora Castro, explained the development of the meeting to all the houses: Pozoblanco, Ma-

laga, Granada, Linares, Montilla and Cadiz, the latter being the new incorporation.

We were also lucky enough to be greeted by the Director of the Casa, Manuel del Rosal, the President of the Pozoblanco Association, Juan Márquez and the Mayor of the City, Santiago Cabello.

At the end of all the presentations, we set off for the **"San Martín"** hostel, located 10 minutes from the school and which would be our accommodation for the weekend.

Once we were in our accommodation, we had a themed dinner, in which each house brought a typical meal from their locality, so that we could learn a little more about their traditions.

The day ended with a playful evening that helped us to have a fun night and to get to know each other a little better.

On Saturday morning, our day began with a prayer, which was followed by a training session. The training dealt with various topics related to love, such as love in the fa-





mily, friendship and love with God.

The end of the morning was dedicated to the assembly, where the Federation and the young people of the locals presented their activities.

Lunch was held in the Alumni Hall, where members of the Local Executive of Pozoblanco delighted us with a delicious paella. Then, after lunch, we went on a sightseeing tour of the bullring of Pozoblanco, "*El coso de los Llanos*", where we got to know the secrets hidden in this emblematic place.

At the end of the day, we had a time of prayer before dinner, where we enjoyed a moment of reflection together.

On Sunday morning, we met again for the assembly in which the meeting was reviewed and the venue of the ERJ 2023 was chosen, being Montilla the chosen house.

To end the meeting, we attended the Eucharist in which we all participated, and once again, we said goodbye with more desire than ever to meet again.

We would like to publicly thank the Pozoblanco Association for the preparation of the Regional Youth Meeting, and especially its Youth Group.

See you in Montilla!

Young Alumni/ae from Montilla







Italy



## Rector Major's visit to Ligurian works of Alassio, Genoa-Sampierdarena, and Varazze ends

(ANS - Varazze) - 7 November 2022

The three-day visit of the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, to Liguria ended in Varazze on Saturday 5 November. The Successor of Don Bosco visited the works of Alassio, Genoa-Sampierdarena, and Varazze from 3 to 5 November.

On Thursday 3 November the entire educational community of Don Bosco di Alassio received a visit from Fr. Artime to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its foundation, albeit two years late due to the pandemic.

In the late morning, young people, teachers, and educators, the entire educational community, welcomed the Rector Major in an atmosphere of celebration.

After lunch, a quick visit to the beautiful beach of Alassio, and the Eucharistic celebration; the Rector Major met and talked with the school children and the whole citizenry, together with the city authorities and the bishop Mons. Guglielmo Borghetti.

In his address, the Rector Major recalled the importance of the presence, since 1871, of the Salesian community in Alassio. «*I am convinced of one thing*», said the Successor of Don Bosco. *I very much believe that miracles happen with our institutions: education and the environment of a home can change the life of a child forever and this touches the heart. The Lord can touch the hearts of young people*».





After the moment of dialogue and discussion at the Institute of Alassio, the Rector Major moved to Genoa, where he was able, in the evening, to meet first the Latin American community and then a group of young people.

The following day, Friday 4 November, was also full of events. In the morning, Fr. Artime met the young people and formators of the Salesian Vocational Training Center in Sampierdarena.

At 10, he presided at Mass in the church of San Siro with the students of the school and their families.



Among the most touching moments of the day was undoubtedly the inauguration of the football field in the presence of the local authorities, and the subsequent tournament played by the boys of the oratory. Finally, in the evening, the city of Genoa and the Past Pupils paid homage to the Rector Major with a piano concert by prof. Massimiliano Damerini, with the songs of the singer-songwriter Fabrizio Nitti. The concert took place in the auditorium of the "Carlo Felice" Theater.



The last stop of the Rector Major's visit was Varazze, where St. John Bosco stayed for 50 days, between 1871 and 1872, for a period of illness. On the morning of 5 November, Don Bosco's Successor reached the city for the celebrations of 150 years of Salesian presence and was joyfully welcomed at the "Sailors of Italy" dock.

At the Town Hall of Varazze, Fr. Ángel F. Artime received Honorary Citizenship as a sign of gratitude, merit and affection, followed by greetings from the city authorities and the bishop of Savona-Noli, Mons. Calogero Marino and from the Mass in the Parish of Sant'Ambrogio.

At the end of the function, the Rector Major went to the same point from where Don Bosco blessed the Varazzini, to renew this gesture.



## Spain



## Salesians in Carmona kick off 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary events

**salesianos.info**  
Web de Noticias Salesianas y del Boletín Salesiano de España

(ANS - Carmona) - 20 October 2022

The Salesian presence in Carmona, a Spanish municipality in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, in the province of Seville, is celebrating 125 years this year. Nowadays, 125 years of perseverance is a rare achievement, but with Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians anything is possible. Therefore, in a spirit of gratitude and appreciation, the anniversary celebration was kicked off in Carmona on Sunday, October 9, with a solemn Mass celebrated in the church dedicated to St. James the Greater.

The Salesians arrived in the city in September 1897.

Thanks to the generosity of Doña Dolores Quintanilla y Montoya, who donated one of her houses on Calle Paso de la Condesa, the first four classrooms were inaugurated, which then served as the starting point for an educational and pastoral project that would take root over time and bear abun-

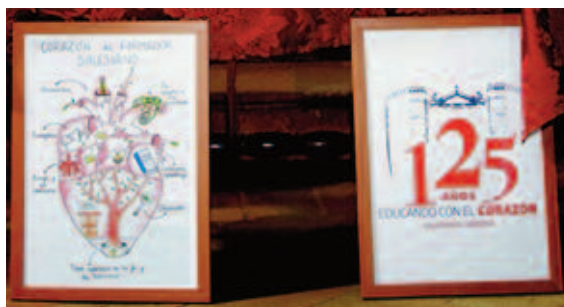
dant fruit. After an unsuccessful attempt to start vocational schools, however, the Salesians obtained another piece of land for their new school, next to the church of St. Francis. It was there that Salesian activity in Carmona took place, starting in 1957.

Then, with Fr. Antonio Gutiérrez as Salesian Rector, in 1970, the current Salesian house facilities were inaugurated in a peripheral but expanding area of the city, on El Viso street.

Since 1989 there has not been a stable community of the Sons of Don Bosco in Carmona, but Salesian activities have remained, carried on by lay collaborators in the mission and faithfully accompanied by Salesians from neighboring communities: first by those of Alcalá de Guadaira, then by the Theological Studentate community and the Provincial House in Seville, as well as the "*Bartolomé Blanco*" community. To celebrate all this history of Salesian life, on Sunday, Oct. 9, at 1 p.m., in the church







dedicated to St. James the Greater, Fr. Fernando Báñez, Provincial Councilor with Delegation to the works run by lay people, presided over a solemn Eucharist, the starting point of a whole series of initiatives and events that will continue into 2023.

More than 500 faithful attended the celebration, which was musically animated by the *"Uno Más" Youth Center of Carmona*, and was also attended by numerous students and members of the Salesian Family - primarily members of the Association of Mary Help of Christians, *Past Pupils* and Salesian Cooperators - as well as representation from each of the city's fraternities.

Joining Fr. Báñez at the altar were other Salesians and local clergy, along with a large group of ministries, students from the center; *while among the authorities were: the city's mayor, Juan Ávila, and the tourism alderman, Ramón Gavira, both alumni*, accompanied by the titular rector of the House, Óscar González.

In his homily, Fr. Báñez reviewed the history of the center, thanking God for the abundance of graces received over the years and all those who have collaborated in the Salesian mission, and asked for forgiveness if at times something was not done to the best of its ability.

He then cited Carmona as an example of good management, despite the fact that it has not had a Salesian community permanently present for more than 30 years. Currently, the Salesian house in Carmona offers preschool, primary, and secondary schooling, and its educational work is highly regarded in the city.

Carmona is the first Salesian presence in the Spain-Mary Help of Christians (SMX) province that has handed over its work to a team of lay people, educators and animators, who to this day continue to share the Salesian mission.

**Source:** Salesianos.info





## Spain



## La Orotava opens celebrations of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Salesian presence

(ANS - La Orotava) - 22 December 2022

Last December 10, the opening ceremony of the events celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Salesian presence was held in La Orotava, on the island of Tenerife. It was a simple and familiar event, but full of emotions.

José Manuel Pitti, a journalist and congressman who is a Past Pupil of the school, was in charge of presenting the event.

Fr. Francisco de Paula Jaldo, a Salesian and current Rector of the work, invited all those present to live this festive year with grateful remembrance: it is time to value with affection and admiration all that so many Salesians, educators, and families have built to make this work what it is today, he said.

Fernando Báñez, Delegate for Lay Management Works for the Province of Spain-Mary Help of Christians, invited all to celebrate this year by bringing to life three verbs: to thank, to remember, and to enthuse. The city's mayor,

Francisco Linares, also a Past Pupil, stressed the importance of feeling truly at home each time one visits the Salesian work and highlighted the great efforts that, over the years, the Salesians have made for the city's youth. These speeches were then accompanied by some musical pieces performed by members of the Youth Center.

Afterward, Fr. Felipe Acosta, a Salesian and





alumnus of the institute's first graduating class, was in charge of officially proclaiming the anniversary celebrations open. With his words, he was able to convey to everyone the history of the Salesian presence in La Orotava and the fruits that have resulted in culture, politics, sports, devotion to Mary Help of Christians and the social struggle on behalf of the most needy.

His speech also served to celebrate the tireless dedication of so many Salesians and members of the Salesian Family who have helped spread the Salesian style in Tenerife.

The event concluded with a well-deserved tribute to the school's first alumni who were able to attend the event, students who are the living memory of 75 years of Salesian presence.

The anniversary celebrations, which will continue throughout 2023, then included a further appendix with the ceremony held in the following days at the "San Isidro" school in La Orotava.

It was, again, a simple celebration, addressed to all students, their families, and the entire educational community, which wanted to symbolically celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Salesian presence in the city with the representation of the 75th anniversary logo with all those present in the courtyard of the institute, and with the release in the air of 75 biodegradable balloons, as a symbol of education in line with current needs and the commitment to the protection of Creation.

**Source:** Salesianos.info

## India



## Don Bosco among his Children for the Centenary Celebrations

(ANS – Guwahati) – 24 October 2022

The Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime arrived in the morning at Guwahati to participate in the Centenary Celebrations planned to commemorate the arrival of the Salesians in North East India. He was warmly received at the airport by the provincials of Guwahati, Shillong and Dimapur and accompanied to the Provincial House.

Great crowds had gathered around the provincial to welcome the tenth successor of Don Bosco in their midst. Salesian confreres, Sisters, Salesian Co-operators, Past pupils, laity and collaborators from many of the parishes and centres, and hundreds of young people had gathered to receive the Rector Major with great joy and enthusiasm. Sister Provincials of FMA, MSMHC and SMI were also present to receive him.

The Rector Major was escorted by the scouts and guides from *Don Bosco School*, Guwahati, followed by the band players. The students of *Don Bosco Kumarikata* filled the air with music and expressed the mood of joy and exuberance as they happily welcomed the Tenth Successor of Don Bosco for the Centenary Celebrations.

Then a troupe of traditional dancers with their graceful steps of Bihu accompanied the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel together with



Fr. Biju Michael, the Regional Superior of South Asia. The Young people were dressed in the traditional attire of the different tribes of the northeast region, to showcase the beauty and richness of the northeastern region, among whom the Salesians have served joyfully for the past 100 years.

Fr. Januarius S. Sangma, the provincial of Guwahati, welcomed the Rector Major and spoke to the gathering about the importance of the milestone and the gratitude of the region towards the Salesians for their untiring zeal and mission.

*«Looking at the past 100 years, we see uncountable blessings, so we look at the past with gratitude, celebrate the present passionately and look to the future with greater determination»*, said Fr. Januarius in his speech.

The short gathering was enlivened by the welcome song and performance by the students of *Don Bosco Institute* and *Don Bosco Institute of Management Guwahati*. The Student groups from Guwahati sang together the centenary anthem, which unveiled the mood of the occasion.

A beautiful display of the Tiwa tribal dance by the children from Umswai and Karbi Anglong captured the hearts of all. It was indeed a fitting welcome accorded to the Rector Major on his arrival to Guwahati.





## South Korea

# Past Pupils celebrate 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Br Mario Bois

Seoul, Korea, 28 October 2022

On the evening of October 22, 2022 after a long period of the pandemic, the Don Bosco Youth Center (DBYC) - Vocational Training Center, founded in 1967, some **40 Past Pupils** came together in the Bi-di-Korea & Büce factory building in Incheon city (<https://bdkorea.com/en>) to share and celebrate.

At the center was their long-time mentor, Salesian Brother Mario Bois (Italian missionary in South Korea since 1964), still dynamic and active at 80 years of age.

A heartfelt family event carefully prepared by the past pupils leadership (DBYC Association president Mr Kim Won-soo, batch 21) consisted of the presentation of participants, a short videoclip with the recent history and achievements of the past pupils and appreciation of the DBYC past pupils support for the Khartoum (Sudan) based Vocation Training Center of St Joseph.

After a short sharing and photo session in the education hall of the enterprise. Then followed the 80th birthday of Br Marino congratulations and joined dinner.

Besides the senior and young Don Bosco



**Past Pupils** and the celebrant Br. Marino, Br. Peter Choi, SDB (former principal of the VTC) and Fr Vaclav Klement, SDB were present.

Since 1964 more than 3000 young people have received a solid human, professional and Christian education in this unique TVET of the Korea province. During the gathering a short 5 minutes video-clip greeting from Mr Niel Evangelista, GEX councilor for Asia-Oceania of DB Past Pupils World Confederation was also shared.

His invitation to involve the younger generations was welcomed by one 30 year-old participant (batch 41, graduate 2010).

Since both Brothers - Marino and Peter - are now engaged in the Khartoum-Sudan TVET mission repair and update of the mechanics section, the **Past Pupils** are invited to help with their expertise and also in kind (equipment and machine donation) or with financial support. Br Marino very much appreciated the Past Pupils support and invited them to continue, since the two Salesian brothers are leaving again for their technical mission in Sudan once more at the end of this year. Ad multos annos!

Source: Australasia

## San Marino



# 100 years of Salesian presence in Republic of San Marino

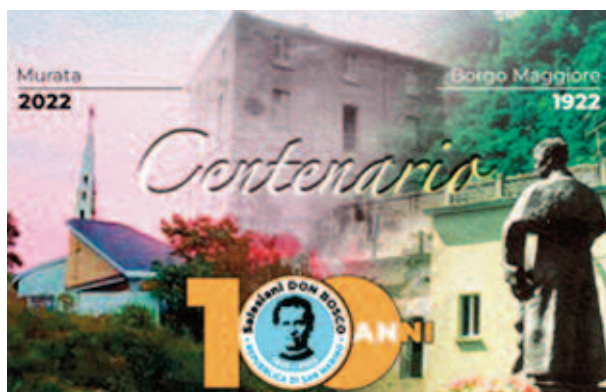
(ANS - City of San Marino)

Today, November 11, 2022, marks exactly 100 years since the arrival of the first Salesians in the small but ancient Republic of San Marino.

To mark the occasion, events and celebrations are planned throughout the weekend.

It was the evening of Nov. 11, 1922, when four religious from the Society of St. Francis de Sales arrived in the San Marino town of Borgo Maggiore: Fr. Giuseppe Ulcelli, Rector of the new Community, writer, poet, playwright; Fr. Francesco Bernaudo, confessor; Spartaco Mannucci, cleric; and Br. Angelo Mensali, Salesian coadjutor. With few items in their suitcases, but with the enthusiasm of the founders, they settled in the "Martelli House". They brought the effigy of Mary Help of

Christians and the then Venerable John Bosco with them. In their hearts, a phrase of his as encouragement: "*Do what you can, God will do what we cannot do. Trust everything in Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and in Mary Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are*".



It was not long before "*the miracles*" materialized: the officiating of the church of Our Lady became the church of the Salesians; then the festive and daily oratory aimed at children and young people; the day and evening after-school program; a singing school; the monthly "*The Friend of the Youth*" in January 1923; the construction of a playground, the purchase of other premises and the adaptation of the "*Martelli House*", with the addition of an oratory hall and theater in 1927; catechism for children; the opening of the Boarding School: "*Salesian Institute*"; the theater company; the "*Libertas*" sports team; the Explorers; "*St.*





*John Bosco*" Catholic Action; the "*Don Bosco Circle*"; the "*Little Clergy*" group, the Past Pupils since 1941 and immediately the Salesian Cooperators; the pastoral care of other churches in San Marino, with attached festive oratories; and the school of religion in two educational institutions.

«*"Mum, I'm going to the Salesians" or "I'll see you at the Salesians" have been phrases uttered naturally for entire generations*», says Pier Paolo Forcellini, President of the Union of Past Pupils of Don Bosco of the Republic of San Marino.

«*It was a safe place in which to grow in faith, carefree joy, altruism, friendship and solidarity. The young people who grew up on the Oratory grounds and became adults sought to live the ideals of youth as parents, in work, in politics, in society. The Church in San Marino has been profoundly marked by the pastoral and educational*

*commitment of the Salesians*».

«*The miracles*», he continues, «*were a response to the expectations and consideration of the population of Borgo Maggiore. But also the response to the civil and religious personalities of the Republic and the Diocese, who took action so that the Salesians would come to San Marino*».

It was Msgr. Alfonso Maria Andreoli, Bishop of Montefeltro, in 1906, who wrote to Fr. Michele Rua, first Successor of Don Bosco, to invite the Salesians to San Marino.

The Bishop proposed that the Salesians could run and officiate in a beautiful church in Borgo Maggiore, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Consolation.

Less than a year after the arrival of the first Salesians, with the unanimous consent of the authorities and the population, the official inauguration of the Salesian Work

in the Republic of San Marino was solemnised on Sunday 19 August 1923..

Tenacity of purpose, multifarious sacrifices, moral and material support of Bodies and Authorities (The Captains Regent, the Congress of State, the Prince and Sovereign Council of the Republic of San Marino) made this event possible.

And Fr. Filippo Rinaldi, Don Bosco's third Successor, issued the decree of the canonical erection of the house in Borgo Maggiore on February 2, 1928.

«*After one hundred years, the Salesians are still in San Marino, in the Murata locality, a community of five religious, called to continue a history of generous donation to the education of young people in the footsteps of the Salesians who arrived in Borgo Maggiore on a November evening in 1922*», Forcellini concludes.

## France



# Benefactors of Pastré Salesian Foundation mobilize for youth of Ukraine and Marseille

(ANS - Marseille)

On Monday, October 17, the Salesian establishment "Pastré-Grande Bastide" in Marseille hosted a grand gala evening for charity, graced by the presence and delicacies prepared by the star chef of *L'Epuisette* restaurant, Guillaume Sourrieu. The initiative served to raise funds for youth in Marseille's at-risk neighborhoods and Ukrainian refugees.

Nearly 150 guests sat at tables for a meal prepared and served by *L'Epuisette's* team of professionals and students from the Salesian hotel school. **Special mention should be given to the five past pupils** who returned especially to support the Marseille's youth: the head sommelier of *L'Epuisette*, Yann Durieux, as well as his co-workers in the same, fine dining establishment, Adrien Lombardo, Damien Cau, Nicolas Cantareil and Fabien Augusto.

During the evening, the purposes of the event and the Salesian Pastré Foundation's strong relationship with the city of Marseille were recalled. That relationship grew out of an encounter between Don Bosco and a family of wealthy Marseille shipow-



*Guillaume Sourrieu,  
Chef de L'Epuisette, in Marseille*

ners, the Pastré. In 1883, Madame Mathilde Pastré donated the Villa Pastré to Don Bosco in recognition of her niece Marguerite's miraculous recovery.

Today, members of the Pastré family are still involved in the foundation's administration, among them, Henri, in charge of welcoming guests on the evening of Monday, October 17.

Thanks to the gala evening, young people from Marseille's at-risk neighborhoods, accompanied by the local branch of "*Le Valdocco*" Association, shall benefit through the sustenance of four educational work camps for young people aged 11 to 18.

Founded in 1995, a few months after violent urban riots in the banlieu at that time, from the meeting of a group of residents

and Salesians in the Dalle neighborhood of Argenteuil, the association has 9 facilities distributed in 6 cities, between Lille in the north, and Nice, in the south. About 2,000 young people are accompanied each year throughout France.

Among them are those from the Frais Valon and La Rose neighborhoods in Marseille. Their names are Hicham, Louis, Dina, Delia, Adama - they are between 11 and 18 years old, some newly arrived in France after traumatic migration experiences, others born there but from whose parents often do not speak French. And most of them live in increasingly culturally and socially isolated neighborhoods.

Moreover, the proceeds from the gala evening will also support the Salesian Family's initiatives in favor of Ukrainian refugees received in Eastern European countries, with an amount equivalent to the cost of setting up a reception center for 50 people at the Salesian center in Ró anystok, northern Poland.

Benoit Deseure

**Source:** Don Bosco Aujourd'hui



*Bastien Lacolley and Nicole Maillard*





Ukraine

## Two generators running in Lviv against cold and power outages

(ANS - Lviv) - 16 November 2022

While the war in Ukraine has now been going on for almost 9 months and the cold weather and lack of electricity further threaten the lives of Ukrainian citizens, international Salesian support, carried out with foresight and thanks to the solidarity of so many benefactors, manages to transmit some energy to the population most in need.

Since Russia launched a series of attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure, saving electricity has been a part of daily life for thousands of people.

Power outages are increasingly common, both in public and private lighting, power outages caused by bombing and technical blockages to try to save as much power as possible so as not to overload the grid.

The government has asked citizens to use it sparingly, being careful about the consumption of washing machines and electric stoves, especially during peak times in the morning and evening.

According to Ukrainian grid operator *Ukrenergo*, about 1,000 specialists work around the clock in the most difficult conditions and often risk their lives to restore power within hours of the bombing.

*«We can maintain this pace thanks to previously built stocks of necessary equipment. In addition, we receive support from European network operators who are helping us with consumables and equipment to repair and restore our infrastructure*

*facilities»*, says Volodymyr Kudrytskyi, head of Ukrenergo, in the Austrian daily *Der Standard*.

In Lviv, the Salesians are managing to carry on hosting activities at the former foster home with the help of two generator sets donated thanks to the efforts of the Salesian Mission Office "*Missioni Don Bosco*" of Turin.



The power generators were procured by Mr. Sandro Boesso, a Salesian past pupil from the province of Venice, who was commissioned by "*Missioni Don Bosco*" to retrieve and ship them. The transport was very complex and long, but by early April the two generators had already arrived at their destination and were installed and put into operation immediately.

These are two essential tools to keep the house that has now become a shelter for hundreds of people from plunging into darkness, used also to shelter wounded people, give assistance to pregnant women and children without families, people who have lost their homes, and people who have escaped from the most dangerous places.

*«The light these days is often lacking even in Lviv; however, thanks to "Missions Don Bosco", we have the possibility to always have energy»*, commented with gratitude Fr. Chaban Mykhaylo, a Ukrainian Salesian, originally from Lviv itself, and Superior of the "*Mary Help of Christians*" Vice-Province of Greek Catholic Ukraine (UKR).

Read more at:

[www.missionidonbosco.org](http://www.missionidonbosco.org)

## Pakistan



## Aid from "Misiones Salesianas" to flood-affected population

(ANS - Lahore) - 4 October 2022

Monsoon rains, this year of particular intensity and duration, combined with melting glaciers in the Himalayas and the widespread presence of garbage clogging the sewers have generated a deadly situation in Pakistan for thousands of people, who have lost everything they had to flooding. Nearly half the country was flooded. The Salesians have offered their cooperation from the beginning: the presence in Lahore was not affected, but from the house in Quetta, several aid projects were started to help the population most damaged by this calamity.

«*The worst floods in the country's history*», Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called it. More than 33 million people have been affected, while more than 1,500 have been killed. The tragic figures are completed with nearly two million homes and 80,000 hectares of farmland destroyed, as well as 800,000 livestock killed.

The Pakistani government has declared 66 districts in the country affected. About six million people are in urgent need of assistance; some of them are already living in camps set up specifically for displaced people, but there are many problems: too little food and poor sanitation.

Even the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of a "potential second disaster of disease and death" after the floods. Water supplies have been disrupted, for-



Photo: Misiones Salesianas

cing many people to drink unsafe water, which can spread cholera and other diarrheal diseases. «*Stagnant water allows mosquitoes to breed and spread diseases such as malaria and dengue*», health authorities explain.

Many families continue to be in need of food, shelter, and medical care.

«*In addition, having lost so many livestock, which were part of their daily livelihood, their difficulties are enormous*», explained Br. Piero Ramello, SDB, a Salesian coadjutor active in Lahore.

The symbol of the disaster is the Indus River, which flows in the Northern Province of Sindh, fed by dozens of rivers and mountain streams that have broken their banks due to exceptional rainfall as well as melting glaciers. The floodgates of the main dam were opened to cope with a flow of more than 600,000 cubic meters of water per second.

The "Don Bosco" Educational Society has received many requests for help from pa-

riches, communities, families and Don Bosco alumni.

The Salesian Delegation of Pakistan, belonging to the Province of the Southern Philippines (FIS), has planned a project for the Don Bosco Colony in Jacobabad, benefiting 56 families; in Sukkher, for 40 families; and in the Zahid area, for 42 more families.

For its part, "Misiones Salesianas", the Salesian Mission Office in Madrid, has already sent an initial shipment of several thousand euros to meet the emergency. The aid is expected to reach 138 families and nearly 1,000 people, almost half of whom are under the age of 15.

The young "Don Bosco Past Pupils Association" in Lahore is also participating in the operation.

The immediate and urgent aid consists of tents, weather protection kits, food rations, medicines, blankets, water canisters, kitchen items, and soap.

Over the past 20 years, the Salesians of Don Bosco in Pakistan have offered a great deal of help in various traumatic circumstances: they assisted the local people when they were affected by the 2005, 2008 and 2010 earthquakes with emergency aid - food, shelter, and medicine - and by helping in the construction of new houses and schools, in Baluchistan and Sindh Provinces; they helped flood victims in the Sindh region (2012); and they gave humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Source:** Misiones Salesianas



## Pakistan

# With a large and multifaceted international effort, Salesians benefit more than 1,200 people affected by floods

(ANS - Lahore) - 18 November 2022

Pakistan is still counting the victims and damage from the monsoon rains that killed more than 1,500 people in late August, leaving at least half a million Pakistanis homeless and one-third of the country underwater - lakes hundreds of kilometers long and dozens wide formed.

More than 1 million homes and about 3,000 kilometers of roads were damaged or destroyed. More than 1 million animals killed, crops wiped out.

The government said a total of more than 33 million people were affected and quantified the damage as at least \$10 billion.

The Salesians responded immediately to the emergency, giving themselves and asking for outside help to increase opportunities to help those in need.

For example, Salesian coadjutor Br. Piero Ramello, a native of the Piedmont and Aosta Valley Special Circumscription who has been a missionary in Pakistan since 2020, immediately contacted "*Missioni Don Bosco*", the Salesian Mission Office in Turin, which in turn took immediate action, ensuring that the needy in Pakistan would re-



ceive initial help through its emergency fund. «With the funds received from "*Missioni Don Bosco*", from "*Misiones Salesianas*" of Madrid, from the Salesian Mission Office of South Korea, and from Switzerland, we won't be able to exactly support all the families who had asked for help and who were included in the "*Flood emergency in Sindh and Punjab*" project, but a good part of them, yes!» reports Br. Ramello gratefully.

He then continues: «Between Jacobabad, Sukkar, and Shakarput we're reaching 100 families with a total of 720 people, including many children and adolescents.

*In the city of Sukkar, the money has been delivered to the parish priest and the di-*

*stribution has been taken care of directly by the parish; in Jacobabad and Shakarput the distribution is taken care of directly by the Salesians in Lahore who, with the help of some past pupils and older boys from the boarding school, are in charge of delivering the material, avoiding gatherings and trying to make the recipients comfortable».*

The materials distributed consist of food (flour, rice, lentils, oil), camp tents, mosquito repellent tents, personal hygiene supplies, and medicines (especially medicines for the prevention and treatment of cholera and dengue fever).

A similar project, supported by funding from "*Don Bosco Mission Bonn*", the German Salesian Mission Office, is being led by the Salesians in Quetta for the Belucistan Province.

«Through the two initiatives, the Salesians in Pakistan are bringing relief to more than 1,200 people», Br. Ramello concluded. And now, with the first intervention initiatives over, "*Missioni Don Bosco*" is working to continue to stand by the people.

Read more at:

[www.missionidonbosco.org](http://www.missionidonbosco.org)





## Colombia



## Alumni in solidarity and social projection

Medellín | November 2022

A group of *Ciudad Don Bosco* alumni aged between 30 and 40 has developed an activity of solidarity and improvement of food quality.

The aim is to unite and promote a decent meal once a week for the inhabitants of the street in the centre of Medellín, a place that welcomed them at some point in their lives and that, thanks to the programmes of the Salesians and educators of *Ciudad Don Bosco* at the time, they were able to welcome and continue a process of spiritual, human and social growth and development that today testifies that they are good Christians and honest citizens.

For this reason, they have strengthened their work, *as the alumni motto states: "Unite and help each other"*.

Their goal is precisely to give back part of what they have received from their Sale-



sian and social education to their families, friends and, in this case, to the people on the street who need food and human support to make their lives and their way in this world dignified.

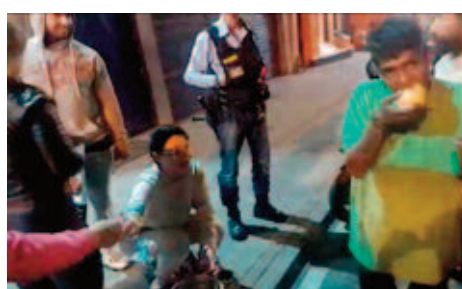
Thanks to the leaders of this process, Salomón Brand and Alex Sepúlveda, who invited other colleagues and alumni friends to join in this beautiful social contribution, today the group of contributors and donors consists of 20 people who have committed themselves to this work.

Their project is now an example for other alumni who want to follow this path of solidarity and wellbeing for others, especially those most in need.

May Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians always accompany this group of courageous Salesian ex-pupils from *Ciudad Don Bosco* to continue their beautiful work.

James A. Areiza Bolívar





## Colombia



# Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation from the Salesian College El Sufragio



5 December 2022

Cordial Greetings,

On November 19 was held the celebration of the 50th anniversary of graduation from the Salesian College Suffrage, a group of people who, motivated by the Salesian charism and memories of the formation received in those years, decided to meet to celebrate life and the Salesian charism, also attended by some of their wives, with joy and admiration was summoned Father Jairo Gallo, SDB. Jairo Gallo, SDB, who accompanied them in that time in their formative process.

The Eucharist was celebrated as an act of thanksgiving and also as an offering of life for those who are no longer with us and have passed on to the glory of God the Father.

Those who are sick were also taken into account so that through the Eucharist and prayer they may receive the goodness of God and the Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians and recover soon.

A meeting enlivened by joy, life, sharing, passing through the historical memory room where different smiles and memories flowed with those who are still not here and the life trajectory of those who were able to attend.

With great emotion they remember their rector, Father Jaime Muñoz, SDB. Jaime



Muñoz, SDB, who died in 1978, and other Salesians who were there and with great joy remember anecdotes and pranks that framed their time at the school.

Oscar Holguín, SDB, Rector, awarded a diploma of recognition for these 50 years and a Salesian candy for being alumni of this wonderful school.

Subsequently, a small tour of that place that did not exist at the time, the preschool and the coliseum, which at the time was the chapel, infinite joy have shown by the evolution of the school and the good space that students have today for their training.

Undoubtedly these spaces are of institutional and human wealth, we entrust to the Blessed Virgin Auxiliadora [this group of alumni](#) and their families to continue being good Christians and honorable citizens.

James Alexander Areiza Bolivar  
Colsufragio Alumni Officer





Italy

## "Partyinsieme" at Turin's Agnelli Institute in presence of RM's Vicar and Turin Mayor

Turin, Italy - 6 October 2022

On Saturday, Oct. 1, an event called "*Partyinsieme*, i.e. *Party-together*" was held at the Agnelli Institute in the presence of the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr. Stefano Martoglio, and the Mayor of Turin, Stefano Lo Russo, both alumni of the Technical Institute.



Children, youth, teens, and adults participated in the celebration, which centered on three typical Salesian "ingredients": the initial Mass presided by Fr. Martoglio and the final goodnight; the generosity of the 140 people including parents, teachers, and oratory animators, who prepared the event and animated the various moments; and the simplicity of being together with lots of music, songs, dances, games and moments of prayer.



**Source:** salesianipiemonte.info





Italy



## Rector Major to Palermo's young: "You are the real treasure in a Salesian house"

(ANS - Palermo) - 13 October 2022

It was a busy day yesterday, Wednesday, Oct. 12, for the Rector Major in Palermo, the city he is visiting because of the conferral this afternoon of a degree honoris causa in Pedagogical Sciences from the University of Palermo.

After greeting the youth of the Salesian Institute "Don Bosco - Villa Ranchibile" early yesterday morning, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime spent the day meeting with Civil Service youth, visiting the Salesian Vocational Training Center (VTC) "Adolescent Jesus" and presiding over a Eucharist for the local Salesian Family.

«*You young people are the real treasure in a Salesian home*», the Rector Major began, offering the Salesian "good morning" thought. On this occasion, speaking to them about the meaning of vocation in each person's life, he invited them to have in their hearts the desire to give the best of themselves.

He concluded, «*I truly invite you to be good people, who carry a good heart, humanity... People with the ability to cast their gaze on others as well*».



At the Salesian VTC "Adolescent Jesus" the Rector Major was enthusiastically welcomed by the youth, the educational community, and the Rector of the work, Fr. Arnaldo Riggi.

«*Welcome home!*» began the Rector in greeting the Rector Major. «*Because, if it is true that every Salesian home is your home, dear don Ángel, this one is even more so, because we already feel you as one of the family and that is why we, with the simplicity of children, want to open our hearts to you!*».

On the occasion, the Rector retraced the history of the Institute and presented the various elements that make up the Insti-

tute today: the VTC, with its two sectors of Mechanics and Catering; the oratory strongly embedded in the social fabric of a poor neighborhood; the Salesian youth sports facilities, the theater and center of the Salesian Cooperators, and the [Union of Past Pupils of Don Bosco](#).

And without keeping silent about the challenges, especially inherent in the difficulties in continuing to offer Vocational Training, he reiterated the community's commitment to be an educational presidium.

The subsequent, moving speeches by the young people of the work favorably impressed the Rector Major, who, for his part, in the message offered to those present, exuded the love and passion of a father addressing his children, inviting them to Salesian hope and joy and exhorting them to "*always be dreamers like our dear Father, Teacher, and Friend: Don Bosco*".

Later in the afternoon, the 10th Successor of Don Bosco participated in a moment of the general formation day addressed to the National Civil Service volunteers with the Salesians who flocked from all the branches in Sicily.



He listened to the testimony of five volunteers working in different fields, which gave rise to a beautiful moment of discussion and sharing, and for his part, he reminded the volunteers several times that every gesture, even the simplest, can leave a great mark in the lives of the young people they meet.

In the last event of the day, the 10th Successor of Don Bosco, presided at Mass at the church "*San Domenico*" in Palermo, in a celebration attended by members of the local Salesian Family and several friends of Don Bosco from various parts of Sicily.

Also present were Bishop Saro Vella, Salesian bishop of Madagascar, and Fr. Juan Carlos Perez Godoy, councilor for the Mediterranean Region.



At the end of the celebration, which also marked the start of the school year for the "Don Bosco" - Villa Ranchibile community, there followed the greetings of Fr. Giovanni D'Andrea, Provincial of Sicily, Fr. Domenico Saraniti, Rector of Villa Ranchibile, and Sr. Angela Maccioni, Provincial of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians of Sicily, and the awarding of a plaque of merit to Salesian Fr. Angelo Astuti.



## East Timor



## Church dedicated to St Callistus Caravario inaugurated in Uaimori Tula

(ANS – Uaimori Tula) – 18 October 2022

It was a great joy for the people of Uaimori Tula. What they have been waiting and looking for for so many years, finally, they have received it: a new church, a house wherein to celebrate the sacraments, get together as a community, and grow together in the faith.

The long awaited day in a context marked by war, arrived in October, and was highlighted by the participation of numerous authorities, starting with Salesian Cardinal Virgílio do Carmo da Silva, Archbishop of Dili.

Uaimori Tula is well known as a setting that accommodated hundreds of guerrilla fighters during the resistance period. However, after independence, this historical place seemed to have been forgotten.

Yet, after a long time of waiting, the people living in Uaimori Tula, little by little, saw the dawn of a brighter light sparkling on their spiritual lives through the person of Fr. Locatelli, a great Salesian missionary. Fr. Lo-

catelli is working tirelessly for those people who are living far away, those who are on the periphery. Through the help of so many good people, benefactors, and mostly his beloved spiritual sons and daughters, [the past pupils of Don Bosco](#), he could help them and prepare them for a better future.

On the first day of October, Fr. Locatelli was there in Uaimori Tula to witness the arrival of so many people from different places and ranks of life, from the government and the Church: His Eminence Cardinal Virgílio do Carmo da Silva, SDB, Archbishop Marco Sprizzi, Vatican representative, TLS Provincial, Fr. Anacleto Pires, SDB, some diocesan and Salesian priests, distinguished guests or their representatives, government members, and the Portugal ambassador, [Past Pupils of Don Bosco](#), and the people of Uaimori Tula.

The celebration opened with a procession from outside the church, followed by a blessing at the entrance to the building, while part of the assembly had to remain outside for the entire celebration - in a specially prepared space - due to the large





crowd present.

Cardinal Virgílio inaugurated and blessed the church dedicated to Saint Callistus Caravario, a cleric who joined the first missionary expedition way back in 1927. Caravario stayed for two years. Cardinal Virgílio celebrated the new church's solemn Mass dedicated to Saint Callistus Caravario.



Before starting the Eucharistic Liturgy, the cardinal performed the traditional rites of the dedication of a new church: he blessed the altar with holy oil and incensed the entire church. And at the end of the Mass, the Cardinal, the Salesians, and all the benefactors who enabled the construction of the sacred building, in particular *many Past Pupils of Don Bosco*, were thanked with official speeches by the community leaders of Uaimori Tula.

The day of celebration was rounded off with a moment of fraternal agape. A video of the entire celebration is available on YouTube.



**Source:** AustrAsia





## Uruguay



# "Talleres Don Bosco" inaugurates two clean and renewable energy generation projects

(ANS - Montevideo) - 26 October 2022

Continuing its commitment to a more sustainable future, the Salesian center "Talleres Don Bosco" (TDB) inaugurated a Photovoltaic Microgeneration Park and an Electric Vehicle Technician training workshop on October 19. Authorities from the government, school, teachers, and students attended the launching ceremony of these two cutting-edge projects for the country's future.

The ceremony began with words from TDB rector Fr. Miguel Suárez, who recalled that these engagements are part of the activities organized for the 130th anniversary of the founding of TDB, which is part of the Salesian Vocational Centers of America Network, composed of 22 Technical and Vocational Educational Centers.

In a context where *"there is talk of changes in the DNA of education"* that is more *"rapid and dynamic"*, at Talleres Don Bosco *"we are determined to accept the new challenges"*, the Rector assured. Then, he recalled that the TDB has been committed for many years to changing *"its way of educating and preparing young people"*, and said that back in 2000, with the help of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB, in Spanish) it began a process of skills-based education and training, of adapting curri-



cula according to the demands of the labor market.

He went on to explain that, following the guidelines of the Salesian Congregation globally, TDB has been engaged in clean and renewable energy generation since August this year. On the one hand, thanks to the collaboration of a foundation, 150 photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roof of the enormous building, which will cut electricity consumption by over 35%, thus allowing these funds saved to be used for educational innovation and technological upgrading.

On the other hand, the training of graduates and retraining of mechanics in the field of electric mobility is beginning.

After expressing thanks to all the project's partners and benefactors, Fr. Suárez concluded, *"History has placed us in a labor market that requires skilled labor and, above all, with human values and soft skills, a reality that has made the Don Bosco Preventive System a great and very valid option for families who sent their children to study in Montevideo from all corners of the country"*.

A video showing the 150 photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of the building was then shown; then, the Minister of Indu-



stry, Energy and Mines, Omar Paganini, an engineer, took the floor, congratulating the authorities, teachers, and students who are part of «*this work of great trajectory and prestige*» for their commitment not only to using new technologies but also to training people to use them. «*This is what the country needs*», he underscored.

The President of the National Administration of State Electric Utilities and Transmission (UTE), Silvia Emaldi expressed her gratitude for sharing the inauguration of «*such important works that contribute to the evolution for the future of work in the country.*»

*As a Salesian past pupil, it is a great thrill to share and to see how many young people and teachers continue to make sure that Salesian work in the country is based on key values, such as study and work, that allow us to have opportunities throughout our lives. I am thrilled that my country's specialists in the future of work have found in the courses being inaugurated here today, electric mobility and renewable energy, the careers of the future.*

*Together we will continue to work for a better Uruguay», she said.*

The ceremony concluded with a tour of the plant where the courses will be held and an agape moment for all present.



## Africa



## Improving Quality of Life through the Job Service Office

Don Bosco Tech Africa (DBTech Africa/DBTA) was established in 2014 as the coordinating body of 107 Don Bosco Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres in 34 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa reaching out to over 35,000 marginalised young people.

Its mission is to enhance youth development in Africa through efficient resource management and skill training in the training centres.

DBTech Africa focuses its mission on the poor marginalised young people, orphans, school dropouts, street children, those from broken families, immigrants, refugees, and internally displaced regardless of their religion, culture, gender and race.

We endow these young people with technical, entrepreneurial, soft and life skills necessary for building resilience to life challenges, creativity and innovation.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays a vital role in produ-



cing a skilled workforce that helps the industry and fuels economic growth. Africa is adopting TVET to offer skills training to the increasing population of young people on the continent.

However, this effort faces several challenges such as a high unemployment rate, low female participation in TVET, skills mismatch with labour market demands and low placement rate of graduates, lack of awareness of the importance of TVET, lack of a liaison person to link graduates and institutions to the industries, lack of career guidance and lack of quality training and trainers just to mention a few.

To address these challenges in Don Bosco TVET centres in Sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar, DBTA came up with the Job Service Offices.

These offices are spread from the local level to the national level.

Where the Salesian administrative unit is made up of more than one country, there is





a job service office known as the Provincial Job Service office (P-JSO).

The Job Service Officer's (JSO) function is to facilitate a smooth transition of the graduates from school to the world of work with the ultimate goal of improving their standards of living.

DBTA developed a Job Service Officers' Quality Manual to enhance the quality of service delivery, efficiency and effectiveness of the JSOs.

The manual contains six missions that guide the JSOs to ensure a smooth transition of the graduates to the labour market.

In addition, the JSOs have undergone various trainings organized by DBTA to equip themselves with skills and competencies that will enable them to deliver their work effectively and efficiently.

The JSOs are also provided with the necessary office equipment like furniture, stationery, laptop, camera, printer and for



mobility.

Through this office, the TVET centres have built strong and sustainable networks with the private and public sectors which are beneficial to the trainees for internship and employment opportunities.

The office has been able to bring past pupils on board through the formation of alumni groups.

Past pupils are key in offering motivational talks to the trainees and giving feedback to the institutions on the labour market demands.

The presence of the Job Service Office has increased the employment rate of Don Bosco TVET graduates in Africa.

Not only are the graduates engaging in formal employment but also in self-employment.

DBTA remain committed to bringing a paradigm shift in the TVET offer and preparing young people to be job creators than job seekers.



India



## Doctors Conclave: Don Bosco Past Pupils to Inspire Students

(ANS – Chennai) –1 December 2022

In a unique initiative, the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association (DBPPA) brought to the DB campus some of Chennai's most eminent doctors from its wide range of alumni to offer interesting insights and guidance to the students on the theme of healthcare.

This event was held on 26 November at the Don Bosco School Auditorium, Egmore, Chennai. The inaugural edition of the DB Talks – the "*Doctors Conclave*" – was the first in the series of events planned to connect eminent DB Past Pupils with the current batches of students and their parents and offer them insights and guidance from their field of expertise and experiences.



The event was inaugurated by Dr Prabhdeep Kaur, Epidemiologist - ICMR- National Institute of Epidemiology in Chennai. A panel discussion followed, which was moderated by Dr Winston Noronha, Professor and HDD Surgery, *Meenakshi Dental College and Medical Superintendent, Meenakshi General Hospital*, in which the doctors shared their experiences with a focus on advancements in medicine and the art and science of holistic healthcare.



The distinguished alumni doctors who participated in the event and shared their views and gave insights were Dr. S. Suresh, Chairman of VHS Hospitals; Dr Kurian Joseph, Director of Joseph Hospitals; Dr Thangarajan Rajkumar, Professor and Head





- Dept. of Molecular Oncology, Cancer Institute, Adyar; Dr J S **Rajkumar**, Chairman, Lifeline Hospitals; Dr **M.A Raja**., Oncologist, MGM Healthcare; Dr **R Sujeer**, General Dentist & Endodontist, Dr. **Rao** Dental Clinic; Dr **Anil Pande**, Neurosurgeon, Apollo Hospitals; Dr **Jacob Jamesraj**, Senior Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, MMM Hospital; Dr **U Subash Rau**, Senior Consultant Physician & Diabetologist, Dakshin Medical Consultancy, Adar and Dr **Sanjay Cherian**, V P & Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Frontier Lifeline Hospital (Dr. Cherian Heart Foundation). More than 400 students of Don Bosco, Egmore and Lady Andal School, from classes 10, 11 and 12 and their parents participated in this event. It was indeed a rare and unique experience for the students.



The Rector of DB Egmore, Fr. Xavier Pakiam speaking on the event affirmed: «*It is great to see so many of our Past Pupils offering various services in the society in different parts of the world.*

*Hundreds of our DB students are doctors, and these selected doctors from Chennai who have come to the conclave, are offering a great service to a large number of people especially through the health care services. Don Bosco is proud of them, because they carry in them the DB spirit, and give back to the society what they have received. I believe that every Don Bosco student will give back manifold for the betterment of the society, through their life and work».*





## Fr Paolo Albera. The years of the Rectorate (1910-1921)

Rome - Salesian Historical Institute

On the occasion of the closing of the centenary year of Fr Paolo Albera's death (29 October 2022), the LAS publishing house is making available to the Salesian Family the beautiful volume Fr Paolo Albera. The years of the Rectorate (1910-1921).

Edited by the Director Emeritus of the Salesian Historical Institute, Fr Francesco Motto, it contains the papers presented at the International Conference, promoted by Rector Major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, organised by the Salesian Historical Institute and held at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome exactly one year earlier (30-31 October 2021).

The volume, of over 300 pages, takes a close look at the figure of Don Bosco's second successor in his role as Rector Major, exercised in an extremely difficult historical period.

We need only think of the First World War and all the consequences for the Salesian houses bombed and requisitioned, for the Salesians called to the front, for the many orphans they took in, for the economic cri-



sis and the inevitable collapse of charity... And the former pupils? A year after Fr Albera's election as Rector Major their first international congress took place; a few years later, on the centenary of Don Bosco's birth (1815) they launched the idea of a monument to Don Bosco to be erected in front of the church of Mary Help of Christians in Turin.

Because of the war it could only be inaugurated in 1920, but it was made possible thanks to the strong financial contribution of the alumni.

On the same auspicious occasion they defined their first structure in local unions, provincial federations, international federations.

Before that they had not failed to contribute to the construction of the shrine of Mary Help of Christians, promoted by the Salesian Cooperators at Don Bosco Hill.

In short, at the time of Fr Albera, the past pupils set out decisively on the path of their particular charismaticity within the Salesian Family that was still in its nascent state.



India

## Book by an alumnus

First Salesian provincial hailing from Santal tribe, Dr Joseph Pauria releases the book, *Making Birbhum Beautiful* by Salesian College Sonada Alumnus Fr Cyriac Manianchira of 1969 batch, on 20th October 2022 at Bandel Retreat House.

The book contains 25 years of developmental work in Birbhum district of West Bengal. Often called "*the land of red soil*", Birbhum noted for its topography and Santal tribal cultural heritage is situated North of Kolkata.

Fr. Cyriac who hails from Kerala has been working in Don Bosco institutions in Hooghly, Birbhum and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal as well as in Purnea district of Bihar for past 56 years.

Since 1980 Fr Cyriac's pioneering development work was among Santal tribal community in 10 Blocks of Birbhum. Currently he is at Don Bosco Joypur, near Birbhum district headquarters in Suri.

The 164 page book chronicles Fr Cyriac's community development initiatives among Santals.

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## Book in Shillong

On the occasion of Salesian centenary in northeast India, civil society organised a book launch with eminent citizens and church dignitaries at a glittering function held in Shillong Cathedral Hall, on 24th October 2022.

Spokesperson for United Christian Forum Northeast India and Assam Christian Forum Mr. Allen Brooks introduced the author of the book Salesian Archbishop emeritus Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati.

Chief Minister of Meghalaya and Don Bosco Past Pupil Mr Conrad K. Sangma released the book entitled: *Values Must Come Alive!*

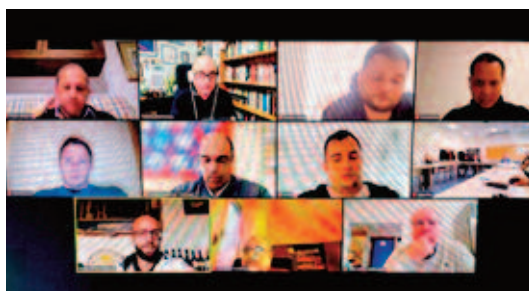
Renowned Scholar Prof. Dr. David Syiemlieh, former Chairman of Union Public Service Commission, Government of India, reviewed the book.

Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong was the guest of honour.





## Don Bosco Past Pupils of Europe at work for their future



Rome, Italy - 28 November 2022

The Presidents of the Federations of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco on the European continent met on Saturday, November 26, for the purpose of making known the state of the federations in which they operate and to plan an in-person meeting.

Convened by Valerio Martorana, a member of the Presidency of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco and Regional for Europe and the Middle East, the meeting, which was conducted online, began with words of welcome from Valerio Martorana, the World President of Past Pupils, Bryan Magro, the General Secretary Peter Kovac, and the Regional of Young Past Pupils for Europe and the Middle East, Alessandro Pensabene.

Mr. Dominic Nuc Nguyen, World Delegate of the Past Pupils, in his speech stressed that *«it is important to walk together»*.

Following this, the Presidents of the attending Federations spoke: Diego Aragon, Spain President; Giovanni Costanza, Presi-

dent for Italy; Celso Nogueira, Portugal President; Bryan Magro, President for Malta; Robert Mruk, President of Slovakia; Marton Csany, President for Hungary; and Marc Titiaux, South Belgium President.

Finally, the World President of Past Pupils shared, *«The challenge we have as Past Pupils and friends of Don Bosco is to acknowledge that we must change to respond to today's reality. We must learn from our past, discern the present, and form the future. We will begin to walk together to renew our organization and become an active and relevant movement in today's world.»*

*In its strategic plan, the Presidency has proposed that an Extraordinary World Assembly be held in 2024 to define our vision for today and update our bylaws. I invite everyone to participate in this journey so that together we can meet the challenge and confirm our relevance and contribution to the society we live in today».*

The participants, after presenting their activities, agreed to meet in attendance on 23 June 2023 in Turin-Valdocco.



Italy

## Testaccio Oratory celebrates Immaculate Conception and anniversary of first Salesian oratory started by Don Bosco in 1841

Rome, Italy - 9 December 2022

On December 8, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the Salesian world celebrated the 181st anniversary of the Salesian oratory, which was started by Don Bosco on December 8, 1841.

As in previous years, the Salesian Oratory in Testaccio celebrated this solemnity with its youths: the program included a vigil and a football match between the Salesians of Testaccio and the parishioners.

On the very day of the feast, the children of the oratory, with the parish community, celebrated the solemn Mass presided over by the parish priest, Fr. Maurizio Spreafico, SDB, who is also director of the oratory. After Mass, there was the "Marian circle" in the oratory courtyard, where the children prayed the Hail Mary with their parents and animators to entrust themselves to Our Lady.



The celebration ended with the traditional "*pagnottella*", a snack, offered to all the children by the Past Pupils.



India

## The Mumbai Provincial Federation conducted visitation to Gujarat region

Mumbai, India - 13 december 2022

The **Mumbai Provincial Federation** conducted visitation to Gujarat region on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022, covering a distance of approx. 400 kilometres and visiting 5 Don Bosco institutions. The purpose of the visitation being to strengthen the existing unit and facilitate setting up of new units.

The institutions visited were Narukot Unit (new unit), Chhota Udepur Unit (existing unit), Kavant Unit (new unit), Makarpura Unit (new unit) in the state of Gujrat and Alirajpur Unit (new unit) in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

The visiting team consisted of Mr.Ketan Gala - National President, Fr.Donald Fernandes - Provincial Delegate, Mr.Rashmin Desai - Provincial President, Mr.Sachin Kotian - Vice President, Mr.Rajeev Mehra - Secretary & Mr.Pravin Agrawal - Committee member.



It was a visitation wherein the **Past Pupils of the various units** were explained in detail the structure and strength of the **Past pupils Association** and how they can collaborate with the Salesians to carry forward the mission of Don Bosco. During the interactive sessions many a queries raised were replied to in detail. One thing common among all the **Past Pupils** from the various units was the enthusiasm to give back to our alma mater for the wonderful Salesian education received.

## Italy



## Ballon d'Or Roberto Baggio inaugurates football field at Salesian oratory in Schio

(ANS - Schio) – 26 October 2022

A huge crowd gathered in Schio to greet Roberto Baggio, the legend of that beautiful football made of sacrifice, sweat, and a lot of passion, with fans and sympathizers of all ages.

The athlete, Ballon d'Or in 1993, Vice-World Champion in 1994, and winner of numerous national and international titles, took the field on Sunday afternoon, October 23, to act as godfather at the inauguration of the synthetic field at the Schio Salesian Oratory, cutting, together with the city's mayor, Valter Orsi, the ribbon marking the beginning of this new adventure.

Many people wanted to be present for this occasion, both for the inauguration and the Salesian celebration, and to see, shake hands and have a word with the legendary striker.

Also present, Fr. Juan Carlos Pérez Godoy, Councilor for the Mediterranean Region, these days on an Extraordinary Visit to the "San Marco" Province of Northeast Italy (INE).

Goodbye now, then, to sand, dust and skinned knees. Those memories will remain indelible in the memory of entire generations



of young Schio fans, who met at that pitch to chase a ball and put it into the opponent's net. The new football field boasts a synthetic turf made of recyclable plastic and LED lighting. Those whom Baggio called "modern heroes", private entrepreneurs who decided not to look the other way, and the city administration, stepped in to make it happen.

*«What has been inaugurated is not an empty container, but a place at the center of which are young people. May they, in this house, be able to discover their most hidden talents»*, said the Mayor.

Organized by the Salesian Youth Sports Club "Concordia Football" with the Salesian "Don Bosco" Institute in Schio, the inauguration is part of the 120th-anniversary celebrations of the institute, which will blow out 121 candles tomorrow, Oct. 27.

A celebration within a celebration that the Rector of the center, Fr. Enrico Gaetan, wanted to define as *«the fulfillment of a dream cradled for years, of which Roberto Baggio was the icing on the cake. Our goal is to offer young people a space that is increasingly within their reach for their formation and growth.*

*The football field is the first step in a larger project. The school is now completed and*



*the oratory will be finished next spring». No one expected such a large crowd, not even the president of the society, Andrea Perezzan, who also served as moderator for the event.*

The champion's eyes twinkled, *«I got excited entering the field because I felt like playing. If only I had more knees...»* Baggio confessed, with some nostalgia toward his 22-year career played at the highest level.

Among the highlights was the reading by the youth and very young players from the football nursery, which also has 90 players, of the letter Baggio addressed to the youngsters a few years ago. Then the youngsters asked the champion questions, which he answered, testifying with great humility.

*«The true beauty is to feel joy for what you do. To feel the pleasure of playing because football is something wonderful. It is important to feel privileged, when you play sports, because many people cannot do it».*

*«You cannot think», he stressed further, «that you can achieve your objectives if you do not also go through failures. Passion, perseverance, and determination make all the difference. You have to learn from sacrifices and fai-*



*lures. I missed a penalty that caused us to lose the World Cup...».*

Among the official speeches was also that of Schio's Sports Councillor, Salesian Oratory alumnus Aldo Munarini: *«It would be worth writing a book about how many generations have passed through the Salesian camp, but also about the many examples of boys who got off the streets.*

*It was a camp that helped us grow because of its conformity, dusty in summer, muddy in spring and autumn, frozen in winter.*

*Today it would be unthinkable to propose to a family to let their children play on such a field. Now they look for quality and state-of-the-art facilities, so even the Salesians had to have a pitch that was up to scratch».*

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the memorial plaque was unveiled for future memory, blessed by Fr. Pérez Goody.

The celebration then continued with the inaugural game, the presentation of the teams in the arena, a toast, and an informal moment for greetings and informal exchanges with the guest of honor.

**Source:** *Corriere del Veneto, Il Giornale di Vicenza*





## Exciting Christmas Solidarity Concert by "Misiones Salesianas" at National Auditorium

(ANS - Madrid) - 13 December 2022

Over 1,800 people attended the Christmas Solidarity Concert of the Salesian Mission Office "*Misiones Salesianas*" last Saturday in Madrid at the National Auditorium of Music. It was a moving two hours that included a dozen pieces by composer Juan Antonio Simarro, performed by the "*Carlos Cruz-Diez*" Symphony Orchestra. Proceeds from the concert, which was held on Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, shall go to projects the Salesians develop to defend and preserve the rights of children and adolescents around the world.

More than fifty musicians, three conductors, six choirs with more than 60 people in total, a soprano, a baritone, a pianist, a violinist, and the large and warm audience in the auditorium were the protagonists of the brilliant Christmas Concert performed by "*Misiones Salesianas*" last Saturday at the National Auditorium.

In the entire repertoire, 10 compositions were performed by Juan Antonio Simarro, who, in addition to serving as master of ceremonies, performed in some of them on piano, ukulele, bongo, or baton, always interacting with the audience. Simarro introduced the concert by calling himself a «Salesian by training, as a past pupil». He also thanked the Madrid Salesian Missions for «the great work they do on five continents with the most disadvantaged children». And he thanked the participation of the various organizations that collaborated in making the event happen: the Sigma Group, the firm PWACS, the private Layret



Foundation, the McYadra company, and the Spanish Federation of Unesco Clubs (FECU). For his part, the director of "*Misiones Salesianas*" Fr. Luis Manuel Moral, thanked the orchestra, conductors, and the audience. They are the creators, he said, «of the production of this Christmas concert, which will do so much good for the minors we serve around the world».

The concert presented a varied program that emphasized the different instrumental groups of the "Cruz-Diez" Symphony Orchestra. Simarro explained the history of each piece of music, the time it was composed, and its symbolism. The piece "*Divertimento*" for ukulele and string orchestra marked the beginning of the concert, and then gave way to the moving "*Overture for Human Rights*".

The audience applauded each piece, as they did the masterful conducting of Manuel Jurado and Carlos Riazuelo. The young Venezuelan musicians living in Spain who make up the "Cruz-Diez" orchestra also demonstrated their skills and quality.

The concert featured several world premieres, such as the piece "*De Sol a Sol*", composed for piano and performed for the first time with a symphony orchestra; and the Christmas carol "*Esta noche es Navidad*", which, as its composer, Simarro, told

us, «I composed one night in late August and we will record it in the coming days».

Other highlights were "*Mi camino*", composed by Simarro after recovering from Covid-19 and as a hymn to love, friendship, and the Camino de Santiago; "*Vals feliz*", commissioned by the Austrian Tourist Society; and "*Tango para dos amantes*", music with which the women's synchronized swimming team successfully participated in several championships. Also performing in the orchestra spaces of the Auditorio Nacional's Symphonic Hall were soprano Angelica de la Riva, baritone Víctor Sierra, pianist Isabel Pérez Dobarro, and violinist Rubén Darío Reina.

The long final ovation for the orchestra and participating choirs of the Federación Coral de Madrid called for an encore.

The Christmas Solidarity Concert concluded with thanks to the audience and best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

The recording of the concert will be broadcast on Spanish television, channel "TRECE TV," on Christmas Eve at 9:30 a.m., local time (UTC+1), and it is still possible to participate by making a donation to help preserve and defend the rights of minors accompanied by the Salesians in all the countries where they operate.

**Source:** Misiones Salesianas



India

## VIII National Congress of Indian Federation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Shillong, India - 20 October 2022

The "Don Bosco" Pastoral Center in Shillong hosted the 8th National Congress of the Indian Federation of the Association of Past Pupils of Don Bosco. The event was organized from October 13 to 15 by the team of Past Pupils, led by Mr. Valerian Pakma, President of the "St. John Paul II" Provincial Federation of Shillong. 250 alumni from the Provinces of India participated, along with Fr. Joseph Manipadan, SDB, Delegate for the Salesian Family of the Salesian Provinces Conference of India (SPCSA).

The Congress was opened by Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot, Superior of Shillong Province (INS), together with Mr. Ketan Gala, National President of the Past Pupils. Group discussions on the theme of the congress "Don Bosco's Mission: our Mission" were led by Fr. John Zosiama, INS Province Vicar, and Fr. Joseph Anikuzhikattil, Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Family.

The assembly decided that in the next four years work should be done on organizing literacy programs, with evening classes; establishing programs with scholarships for poor students; preparing vocational orientation and training programs; and collaborating with Salesian social outreach programs, such as "Don Bosco Green Alliance" and projects for at-risk youth (YAR).



Slovakia

## Meeting of National Presidency of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco

Zilina, Slovakia - 20 October 2022

A meeting of the National Presidency of the Association of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco of Slovakia was held on October 15 at the "St. Joseph" Technical Institute, attended by some 20 representatives of local unions. During the Mass, presided over by the Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Family of Slovakia, Fr. Pavol Grach, prayers were said for the Salesian Family and in particular for all Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco in the country.

The proceedings were opened by the National President, Mr. Robert Mruk, who reminded the participants of Don Bosco's love for his pupils and focused on a brief report of the state of the association at the national level. His speech concluded with the co-optation of the three new members of the national committee.

The World President of the Past Pupils, Mr. Bryan Magro, participated with a video-message through which he encouraged the participants to all walk together in the same direction in mutual help and esteem, in closeness to the Salesian work, not forgetting the mission among the youth, especially those most in need. Afterward, Fr. Grach brought the attention of all present to the preparations for the centenary of the arrival of the Salesians in Slovakia, which will take place in 2024. The meeting was attended as the guest of honor by the World Secretary of Past Pupils, Mr. Peter Kovac, who in his speech presented the new Strategic Plan of the World Presidency of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco.



# Portugal



## Opening of World Consultation on Communication with tributes and launching of a book



(ANS - Lisboa) - 31 October 2022

The World Consultation on Social Communication is taking place in Lisbon, Portugal, bringing together, at the Salesian Provincial House, some 20 representatives of the Communication Sector, the Salesian Bulletin, and Salesian publishing houses for a working meeting and the sharing of experiences.

The meeting's official opening took place last October 29 during a moment that brought together the participants and several guests, including the Superior of the "St. Anthony" Province of Portugal, Fr. Aníbal Mendonça, in a festive evening.

After a few words of welcome, with which Fr. Mendonça stressed the great joy of hosting this meeting in Portugal, two musical moments followed featuring **Wilson dos Santos**, who has been studying piano for three years at the "Musicentro" of the Salesians in Lisbon, and **Anaís Dias**, also a former student of the Lisbon Salesian music school, who performed a song that is part

of her first album.

Emphasizing the great work done by each of the participants in the area of communication, Fr. Gildasio Mendes, General Counselor for Social Communication, took the opportunity to pay tribute to each of the representatives of the communication sector and the *Salesian Bulletins* from the different regions.

Eleven members from different regions of the world were honored. At the end of this moment, Zaida Navarrete, Communication Delegate of the Interamerica region, expressed thanks on everyone's behalf. «It is a joy to be able to dedicate my work to the Salesian mission».

The evening of Saturday 29 also offered an auspicious occasion for the presentation of the 23rd book by Fr. Mendes. The text, "Eu Confio em Ti" (I Trust in You), aims to present trust as the foundation of human relationships and at the same time asks what insight the founders of the Salesian Family could give us about a life entrusted to the service of others. What strategies

will they have followed to overcome difficulties and keep hope alive?

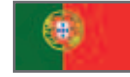
«The theme of trust is very important for our human relationships and our work, in all sectors of our lives. Trust is the basis for establishing fidelity, security, and perseverance in everything we do», stressed the author of the book, Fr. Mendes.

It is a book that presents trust as an experience of sacred space for the human being and shows its significance for Salesian education.

«For Don Bosco, trust is at the center of education. In this book I present what trust is in human relationships and Salesian education, with reference to St. John Bosco and Mother Mazzarelli», concluded Fr. Mendes.

The evening ended with the words of the General Counselor for Social Communication, who stressed the importance of art and communication. Finally, he thanked everyone for their generous welcome and presence.





## Portugal

# Portugal's Past Pupils gathered for General Assembly

Fatima, Portugal - November 2022

The General Assembly of the Portuguese Federation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco met in Fatima at the Community Life and Peace Rehabilitation and Integration Center (CRIF) last November 26.

The main objectives of the meeting were the presentation of the Report and Budget for the present term and the election of the governing bodies for the three-year period 2023-2025. In addition to representatives of local centers and associations, the Assembly was also attended by Fr Joaquim Taveira, National Delegate for the Salesian Family, and Fr Anibal Mendonça, Provincial of the Salesians of Portugal. During the meeting, Celso Nogueira, on behalf of the outgoing administration, presented the report of activities and accounts for the term of office, which were unanimously approved. This first moment was followed by the celebration of Mass, the liturgical animation of which was provided by CRIF users.

The election assembly was then held in the afternoon, and the slate presented was unanimously elected. At the end of the session, [the re-elected president Celso Nogueira](#) had the opportunity to share with all present the Strategic Plan of the World Confederation for the period 2022-2027. In conclusion, Fr. Mendonça emphasized the importance of prioritizing simple and effective projects and actions and seeking to refund inactive local centers, especially by involving the youngest Alumni.



## Burundi

# Ngozi "Don Bosco" High School celebrates its first 60 years in service to young people

Ngozi, Burundi - 11 November 2022

Saturday, November 5, was a day of celebration and joy for the *"Don Bosco" High School in Ngozi, Burundi*. On this date, the first 60 years of the Institute were celebrated in the presence of many Salesians, members of the Salesian Family, civil, political and military authorities, collaborators, and faithful, all flocking to pay homage to this school that has always been at the service of young people. On this important anniversary, [Msgr. Georges Bizimana, Bishop of Ngozi and former student of "Don Bosco" High School](#), celebrated the Mass. The grand celebration was also enriched by the presence of the Superior of the Africa Great Lakes Vice-Province (AGL), Fr. Pierre-Célestin Ngoboka. On the same date, in an atmosphere of joy, the 50th anniversary of Fr. Joseph Kabadugaritse's religious life and the 25th anniversary of Salesian Coadjutor Br. Laurent Minani, SDB, were also celebrated.





## Brazil



## Re-founded group of Don Bosco Past Pupils of Brasilia

Brasilia, Brazil - 6 October 2022

On September 19, a group of Past Pupils of Don Bosco met at the Salesian School in Brasilia, with the aim of re-founding the Past Pupils movement in the Capital of Brazil. The meeting was convened by Past Pupil Eduardo Pessoa Cavalcante, Vice President of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco, with the support of the Salesian Delegate for Past Pupils of the Belo Horizonte Province (BBH), and National Delegate, Fr. Ivan Artur Lima de Faria, SDB. Also present were several Past Pupils from Brasilia and Manaus from various Salesian schools, universities, and parishes. At the opening, Cavalcante gave a presentation on the identity, mission, and levels of membership of Don Bosco's Past Pupils. Fr. Ivan Artur Lima de Faria then delved into some aspects of the Preventive System in relation to the Past Pupils and presented the Salesian presence in Brasilia, offering a broad view on possible fields of pastoral action for the Past Pupils.



After the invitation to revitalize the movement of the Past Pupils of Brasilia, in communion with the Salesian Family, all present accepted the challenge, deciding on some first concrete steps: implementing monthly meetings for formation purposes, inviting and motivating other Past Pupils for future meetings. At the end of the meeting, Cavalcante thanked everyone for their presence and emphasized that this is the beginning of a journey to be traveled together, in a spirit of synodality and gratitude for the education received.

## D.R. Congo



## Conference-debate for youth of Missionary Group

Kinshasa, R.D. Congo - September 2022

On September 25, the youth of the Salesian Missionary Group in Kinshasa organized a time of formation through two major conferences at the Gombe/Don Bosco IG2 Institute. The day began with a Mass presided by Fr. Christian Balabakeba and concelebrated by Fr. Jerry Mat-soumbou, Delegate for Youth Ministry of the Africa Congo VP (ACC).



The first conference, led by Fr. Balabakeba, focused on the theme "*In the face of multiple interpretations, how can the Bible be a true guide for a missionary?*" The theme of the second lecture was "*Complications and Consequences of Abortion Today*", led by Dr. Jacques Ngayuna, a physician at the Monkole Hospital Center and a former student of Don Bosco.

At the end of each lecture, there was a time for discussion, exchanges, and testimonies in which each youth from the Salesian Missionary Group was able to express themselves by asking a question or making a contribution in relation to the theme.



## Nigeria

# Lagos street children learn about St. Artemide Zatti and celebrate his life

Lagos, Nigeria - 31 October 2022

Street children in Lagos, Nigeria, also had the opportunity to learn about and explore the figure of St. Artemide Zatti. The Salesian work "*Bosco Boys Home*" invited these children, together with members of the oratory, to draw a portrait of the new saint.

Through this simple exercise, the children learned that they too can imitate the new Salesian saint and copy his virtues, especially that of helping others.

Welcoming street children is part of the program offered by the "*Bosco Boys Home*", which, under the leadership of Fr. Linus Onyenagubor, SDB, seeks to establish the first point of contact with young people.

Through weekly interventions, accompanied by a group of volunteers, mostly alumni, Fr. Onyenagubor and community members try to win the trust of the children and thus help them even while they are living on the streets, with the goal of later being able to bring them to the "Bosco Boys Home" and include them in rehabilitation programs.



## Great Britain

# Fr Gildasio Mendes attends premiere of film about Sean Devereux

Farnborough, Great Britain - November 2022

The General Councillor for Social Communication, Fr Gildasio Mendes, attended the preview screening of the film on Sean Devereux entitled "*A Light that Never Dies*".

The film, made by the Social Media and Communications team of the British Province, was broadcast on 26 and 27 November in the presence of relatives and friends of Devereux, of Fr Maciej Makula, of Fr Gerry Briody, Superior of the Province of Brittany (GBR), and of the Salesians of the whole Province.

The work follows the life of Sean Devereux, a Salesian past pupil, teacher and volunteer, who was assassinated in Kismayo, Somalia, in January 1993, at the age of 28, while working for UNICEF.

The film also explores the legacy Sean left behind and the impact he had on so many people in Liberia.



## Malta



## Erasmus+ Seminar on helping Young People to deal with Stress, Anxiety and Grief

Malta – 24 November 2022

On the 12th of November, The National Federation of the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco, organized a dissemination event on a project: "Sea and Coast, Lakes and Shores - Conquering Stress, Anxiety and Grief". This project is co-funded by Erasmus+ in collaboration with partners from Slovakia, Belgium, Italy, and Malta.

For this dissemination event youth organizations, helping professionals and volunteers working with youths were invited to this event.

Mr. Louis Debono, operations manager, and Mr. Matthew Gatt Seretny, researcher of the project, presented an informative toolkit related to the project.

The toolkit consists of an overview about grief, anxiety, and stress, following several activities related to the sea and its



coast, lakes and shores which help youths cope with grief, anxiety, and stress. Mr. Debono gave an overview of the project activities that took place throughout the whole year, whilst Mr. Gatt Seretny discussed the research done to get the results of the toolkit.

Mr. Bryan Magro, President of the National Federation of the Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco introduced the seminar, explaining the challenges that youths encounter today.

*«As youth workers we can help young people to get in touch with themselves by relating to nature, in this case the focus is the sea and coast. There are many activities we can create for young people to help them realize their potential, to focus on their positive energies, and to heal their wounds of pain».*

Marica Aquilina

## Colombia



## Youth Service Foundation



On 15 October 2022, our accountant Germán Sanmiguel Penagos represented the SDB-EX SDB Alumni Association at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Youth Service Foundation, a work created by Father Javier de Nicolò.

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Colombia

## A friendship that comes from God

### Salesianity

God is the protagonist of our history. That is why our history is not simply the "*chronos*", the time we measure on the clock; our history, in the presence of God, is above all *kayrós*, that is to say, time of salvation. It is faith that enables us to become aware of God's presence in life. Christian faith is eminently affective: God's relationship with us is one of love and He wants us to respond to Him with love. Responding to God's love is only possible by loving our brothers and sisters.

He is a liar who says he loves God and does not love his brothers (1 Jn. 4:20). The Lord Jesus was very clear that we are not his servants but his friends (Jn. 15:15) and he makes it clear that between friends there are no secrets. He revealed to us who the true God is; he made known to us the things of his Father. Nor is it possible to have secrets with God: who better than He knows the depths of our heart. The human being, more than a rational being, is an affective being.

The Christian faith lived as a Salesian charism, which evangelises by educating and educates by evangelising, has one of its



greatest strengths in friendship. So much so that Don Bosco was convinced that, in order to live the preventive system, it is necessary to be people of faith in the Lord Jesus. For us, education is a matter of the heart. Salesian education is educated with the heart; it is an act of faith, hope and love. Education becomes effective if it first succeeds in winning the hearts of the children; if the educator-pastor does not succeed in connecting with the heart of the Lord Jesus and with the heart of the young people, he will not succeed in educating or evangelising...at most, he will transmit information, but he will not educate because he will not succeed in communicating life, he will not communicate or infect the young people with anything that is significant for their lives. The educator is there to communicate the life of God. We are signs and bearers of God's love to young people who are poor, abandoned and in danger of being eternally lost.

That is why in the Salesian Family we take our friendship with children seriously. We

do not make a superficial reading of those emblematic phrases of Don Bosco: "*it is enough that they are young for me to love them*"; "*make sure that all those you meet become your friends*"; "*try to make yourself loved*". It is not a love in the style of the social networks that seeks to have many "*likes*" to feed one's own ego. It is winning the heart to do as much good as possible for others.

The Salesian alumni movement is surely the one who best understands and knows how to explain these phrases of Don Bosco. The great educators, those who marked lives, were those who showed a lot of love, who spread life, who were capable of touching hearts, who forged people of high quality, of temperament, of character; profoundly human people who have their feet on the ground, but their hearts in heaven; people who learn to see the invisible one.

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P. José Arcadio Riaño, SDB  
Delegate for Past Pupils



Colombia

## Award ceremony



On 7 October 2022, the Don Bosco Alumni Association honoured Don Bosco Centre student Tomás Felipe Ramírez as the winner of the "*Bosco Skills Inspectorial 2022 Poster Competition*". Treasurer Jorge Duque Rocha, and Associate Sandra Zabala, presented the award ceremony.

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## South Korea



# Over 400 Past Pupils of Don Bosco at 40<sup>th</sup> "Great Meeting of Friends"

Gwangju, South Korea - 21 October 2022

On October 15, more than 400 Don Bosco Alumni together with their former teachers and some Salesians gathered on the campus of the Salesian High School in Gwangju for the 40th "*Friends Great Encounter*".

During the day, alumni expressed gratitude to their teachers, including remembering those who have passed away, and five teachers were honored for their service and contributions to society.

The event was attended by many famous past pupils, including a member of Parliament and a well-known Youtuber. The 125th edition of the annual "*Salesian Friend*" magazine was also published on the occasion.

A meeting of the National Federation of Don Bosco Past Pupils of South Korea was also held as part of the event, aimed at revitalizing the Federation.

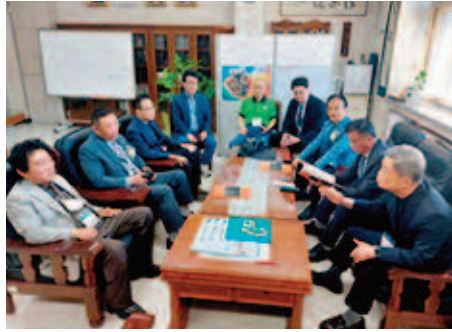


Also participating in the event via video conference was Bryan Magro, World President of the Past Pupils, who shared some key criteria for the healthy growth of the Association, including: walking together with the Salesians and working together for and with young people in need.

Mr. Magro also mentioned the upcoming Special World Congress 2024 which will focus on the profile of the Don Bosco Past Pupil today.

GEX Vice President Niel Evangelista also sent a video message, encouraging growth together with the Salesian Family, with a focus on the accompaniment of the younger generation of Past Pupils, and the journey in unity with the World Confederation of Past Pupils, as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2021-2027.

P. Samuel Yoo



## South Korea



## End-of-year celebrations of Korean alumni

December 11, 2022

The Annual General meeting and Year-end party of Don Bosco Past Pupils of Seoul Association of "Salesian High School" in Gwangju (established 1956) was held on Dec 8, 2022 at the Seoul, Riverside Hotel "Concert Hall" with a participation of 270 'Salesians' as they are called.

Their Gwangju and Incheon branches hold similar event in their respective cities.

Among the participants were also 7 Leaders of Gwangju "Salesian Girls High School" of FMA Past Pupils Association and 3 Don Bosco Past Pupils, current National Assembly (Parliament) members.

It was really a family gathering with Alumni of 2nd up to the 55th graduating batch. Also



the outgoing and incoming President of the Don Bosco Past Pupils Gwangju High School Association were present.

The 4 hours long gathering consists of Don Bosco Award Ceremony, established by Seoul Salesio Association. Two outstanding Past Pupils received this honor.

Also the revision of the Seoul Alumni Association Statutes was unanimously passed with a new article about the possibility of extend 4 times the one-year term of the Association President.

The 'Future Committee' raised the scholarship fund for the young Alumni, who attend the University in the capital (distance from Gwangju 300km).

Ten current students were selected due to their economic situation and provided with scholarship. This fund was launched since





last 2018. As in the Family the last, but long item was the Singing Contest "*for the gentlemen*" with three meaningful awards of 1000 and 500 USD each. Their Girls Salesio High School Past Pupils leadership served as judges, lead by Prof Seong Ak-kwa, Dankook University.

In the busy life of highly competitive South Korean society each familiar moment with dear "*Salesians*" as they call themselves, is very much appreciated, brings a lot of joy.

Good number of the Past Pupils shared their joy and gratitude on the social media afterwards.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!

Bosco Lee







# Greetings from Don Bosco Tech Africa Network



## Message from the Executive Director...

The year is moving fast and we are already entering the 4 quarter. And with this, I am happy to present to you the third newsletter of Don Bosco Tech Africa Network for the year 2022.

The last three months have seen plenty of activities at the province and at the training centre levels. The network office also saw lots of international interactions, meetings and recognition.

One of the highlights was the online *Annual Stakeholder Assembly (ASA)*. It brought together our donors, partners, stakeholders and network members.

The theme was "*ensuring multi-stakeholder participation and partnership in the TVET learning process*".

The inputs and the participation were highly appreciated. A big thank you to all.

At the TVET centre levels and at the province levels, TVET awareness, green programs, JSO campaigns and capacity developments have gone ahead with great seriousness and enthusiasm.

Some of the countries involved in these activities include Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, DRC, Madagascar and Angola.



At the network office level, we have been involved in many international events.

One of the themes being discussed at the international level these days is "*sustainable and resilient TVET for the future*". The COVID-19 pandemic has made us reflect on this topic. Bro. John Njuguna, was part of the panel of UNIDO, discussing this issue. And Fr. George Tharaniyil was part of the panels of UNESCO-UNEVOC and of the Italian development cooperation.

This was a great occasion to share our views and at the same time, this was also a recognition by the international bodies of the good work done by DBTA in the continent. These days I am attending a series of meetings in Italy, mostly at the level of the Salesian Congregation. We had a 4-day

"*Change Conference*" in Rome organised by the office of the Economist General of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

I also had the opportunity to make a presentation at the conference on the envisaged "*managerial, structural and financial management*" systems that can be implemented at the congregational level to make our mission to the young more effective, transparent and relevant.

This was followed by another international conference on "*Salesian Social Works*" organised by the Youth Ministry department of the congregation.

This was held in Turin. Our involvement as DBTA in these conferences is again a sign of the recognition that we are receiving from the congregation.

And these should serve as an impetus to all of us in our efforts to improve the "**QUALITY OF LIFE**" of our young people.

May all our efforts be blessed. May our young people be blessed.

Yours in Don Bosco,

Fr. George Tharaniyil (TJ) SDB  
Executive Director  
Don Bosco Tech Africa



India

# The Rector Major meets the MSMHC sisters and the entire Salesian Family

(ANS – Shillong) – 29 October 2022

St. Margaret's Convent Peachlands, the *Mother House of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians* (MSMHC), welcomed Rev. Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, the Rector Major, on 28 October 2022. After this meeting, in the evening, the Rector Major enjoyed an evening of fraternity with the entire Salesian Family of Shillong.

He was accorded a Khasi traditional dance from the main gate accompanied by Rev. Mother Philomena Mathew, the Superior General, Sr. Maria Goretti T Sangma, the provincial Superior of Shillong Province, Sr. Liza Chetri, the Provincial Superior of Guwahati Province, Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot, the Provincial of Salesian Shillong Province, and other dignitaries.

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime with the MSMHC has always become a great legacy. As per the schedule, his visit was from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The Province prepared well for the grand welcome to the HOME of the MSMHC. The Rector Major was made to feel more at home with the traditional Mizo coat, Khasi Paila, cane cap, and a missionary bag. The province gathered a good number of the MSMHC Family to greet the revered Rector Major. A musical play on the Life of Don Bosco as a Miracle Worker was artistically performed by the Novices from Mary Immaculate Novitiate Mawroh. St. Margaret's School Band played a small piece for our Rector Major, while the novices from Bethel Novitiate performed a prayer dance. The WAC and YAC of the Malki unit rendered a Khasi folk song.

The play entitled "*THE MIRACLE WORKER*" was well acted and produced by the novices from Mary Immaculate Novitiate Mawroh, and was highly appreciated by all, especially by the Rector Major, as it was



well-scripted, beautifully performed with a very powerful message. It was so unique to witness that after each item Fr. Rector Major left his impression by taking pictures with the participants. After the items he gave to the family (MSMHC) there was a beautiful talk which became like a capsule for our lives. After the program, the group photo session was taken. They took Fr. Artime to the chapel to pay homage to the mortal remains of Venerable Stephen Ferrando. The prayer was led by Sr. Meris Dkhar, the provincial Secretary, and concluded with prayer, invoking blessings through his intercession and receiving blessings from our Rector Major. This was followed by a cup of tea served to all those present for the event. The group who accompanied Fr. Rector Major then led him back to DBTS. The Salesian Family Meet with the Rector Major was held in the evening of 28 October 2022 at Don Bosco Technical School, Laitumkhrah Shillong. The gathering of Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, Visitation Sisters

of Don Bosco, and the past pupils of the Salesians and FMA around the head of the Salesian Family was an experience around the hearth of a home.

In his discourse, the Rector Major reminded the members of the family of their responsibility of living the Salesian charism. Firstly, he encouraged them to implant the charism of the Salesian family in the local Church and together they could achieve much good. Secondly, the Rector Major encouraged them to continue the specific mission of each group. He also reminded them to go back to their roots and the celebration of the centenary is a momentous opportunity and responsibility to be faithful to the charism and be attentive to the essentials. The most significant message he wanted to share with the family is none other than the words of Pope Francis: to be a poor, merciful and humble church. Another important reminder he insisted on the gathering is that devotion to Mary Help of Christians is not an option for the Salesian family.

After the speech, the floor was opened for interaction in which few individuals posed their queries to the Rector Major to which he responded very aptly and precise, always adhering to the spirit of the family. Summing up the interaction session, the Father of the Salesian family posed before them a future thrust: *«We should move to those where we are really needed, listening to the cry of the poor and not about just maintaining the present mission»*.

Finally, he concluded the meeting exhorting everyone to have the young people as the centre of their mission, for he said the youth aid the Salesian towards their sanctity and salvation.

# Ex ALLIEVI Newsflash

*Religious and Social magazine of the World Confederation of Ex-students of Don Bosco*

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