



Australian

# Salesian Bulletin

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Siva Tour • Pope Francis • WYD • Mother Teresa



“All of us are quite aware of, and deeply worried by, the disturbing social and political situation of the world today. Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion. We know that no religion is immune from forms of individual delusion or ideological extremism. This means that we must be especially attentive to every type of fundamentalism, whether religious or of any other kind. A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms. But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners.

The contemporary world, with its open wounds which affect so many of our brothers and sisters, demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps. We know that in the attempt to be freed of the enemy without, we can be tempted to feed the enemy within. To imitate the hatred and violence of tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their place. That is something which you, as a people, reject.”

*(From Pope Francis' address to a joint meeting of the United States Congress, 24 Sep 2015)*



## Cover

*Siva is the Samoan word for dance. Students from Don Bosco Technical Centre, Alafua, Samoa on their recent tour of Australia shared something of the beauty of the Samoan culture with Australian audiences.*

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# In Joyful Hope



**S**ome months ago, I visited an elderly yet fragile lady in her home. As she served the compulsory cup of tea, I noticed a serene face and smiling eyes, all of which bespoke of a mind still very much alert. I sensed that, at her age, she viewed the past from a panoramic lookout. She initiated the conversation as she poured the tea. *“Well, young man”,* she said, oblivious to my grey hairs and three score and more years, *“How do you see the future?”*

I put down my cup, and had not even opened my mouth, when she began answering her own question. Here we go, thought I, another journey down memory lane to the good old days and the great and glorious past. How wrong I was! After a few sentences peremptorily dismissing the prophets of doom with their dire forecasting about such matters as the ozone hole, the greenhouse effect, the breakdown of law and order, the moral decay of society, she concluded with *“God has done a pretty good job looking after the world so far. He is not going to let us down in the future.”* Here was Christian hope and optimism born of a deep faith in a loving Divine Providence.

Television addicts, and avid readers of the daily papers, must be appalled by the terrible state of the world. The unremitting diet of bad tidings, served up with high selectivity by the controllers of our mass media, has serious consequences. We can so easily become a race of gloomy, sour-faced pessimists, regarding life as something to be endured rather than enjoyed. To succeed in life, we, armed with our Christian values, must first believe in life. Only then will we have the confidence to face prevailing problems. The future is ours to make, or ours to permit.

In a recent general audience, Pope Francis spoke on the meaning of Christian hope, saying that it consists in our joyful expectation of the return of its source, Jesus Christ. *“Christian hope encompasses the whole person, so it is not a mere desire or an optimism, but the full realization of the mystery of divine love, in which we have been born and in which we already live.”*

Again, at the recent World Youth Day, in a challenging and inspiring address, he invited young people to be active and to make a difference in today’s world.

*“The times we live in do not call for young couch potatoes but for young people with shoes, or, better, boots laced.”* He added that we didn’t come into this world *“to make our lives a comfortable couch to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason, to leave a mark.”*

Let the prophets of doom prophesy on; we are called to wait in joyful hope until the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



## Editor

Frank Freeman SDB,  
editor of the Australian  
Salesian Bulletin



## God's name is "Mercy"



**W**e are Salesian Family, bearers of a charism which is firmly rooted in the certainty that our God shows a special tenderness towards his children, for the youth of the world, and, in particular, for those who, up until today, have had fewer opportunities.

Pope Francis gave an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to the Church Universal. The Holy Year was opened on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will conclude with the solemn Mass of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, (Christ the King) on 20 November 2016.

At the heart of this Jubilee, the Pope placed the need (which we always have) to contemplate the Mystery of Mercy because it is a font of joy, of serenity, and of peace. In the Bull of Indiction, he spoke what he feels in his heart: "How I wish that the years to come may be bathed in mercy so we might go out to meet every person with God's goodness and tenderness! May the balm of mercy as a sign of the already present Kingdom of God in our midst reach to all – believers and those far off."

I have entitled this message: "God's Name Is Mercy." It is the same title used in an interview given by Pope Francis a few months ago. In that interview, the Holy Father responded to many questions about the Jubilee Year and what motivated him to proclaim it. To the question posed to him, "What is mercy to the Holy Father?" the Pope answered, "Mercy is the ID card of our God: God of Mercy, Merciful God." This expression is at one and the same time so very simple, so radical, and still so freeing.

I felt that I could not let this special year pass by without referring to it in regard to our Salesian reality because, first of all, we are the educators of a multitude of youth in our world; we are Salesian Family, bearers of a charism which is firmly rooted in the certainty that our God shows a special tenderness towards His children, for the youth of the world, and, in particular, for those who, up until today, have had fewer opportunities.

There have been hundreds and hundreds of pages written and published on the theme of mercy all around the world. My words will not give any new insight but bears a strong message: a CALL – A call to every educator and to every Consecrated Religious, reiterating our fundamental task: to be authentic proclaimers of the Mercy of our God, spreading it to others who are in contact with us.

### *Fr Ángel Fernández Artime*

*Fr Ángel is the Rector Major of the Salesians and the 10th successor of Don Bosco*

Before all else, we must begin from this conviction: only someone, who has experienced His Mercy, truly knows God. That is, only if we have felt the need of His kind and tender gaze, will we be able to pass on to our children and our youth some transforming and efficacious glimmer of what we believe God is for us and for them. We cannot speak about the Mercy which God gives, as if we were teachers coming to teach a lesson. We can only share our convictions and our certainty about a weak faith which, nonetheless, can give extraordinary strength.

## The Two Stars

At the same time, a Salesian heart must feel happy to know that through his or her very way of being and acting in the midst of the young, he or she has the marvelous opportunity to show concretely how God loves the young, even through our gestures of self-giving and generous service. This is just what the wisdom story called "The Two Stars" relates:

Once upon a time, there lived a very austere man, who had made a vow to touch neither food nor drink until sundown. The man knew that his sacrifice was pleasing to Heaven because every evening, on the highest mountain near the valley, there shone a luminous star, visible to all.

One day, the man decided to climb the mountain, and a little boy from the village insisted upon accompanying him. Because of the heat and the strain, the two soon became thirsty. The man encouraged the little boy to drink, but he answered: "I will do so only if you drink, too!"

The poor man found himself in a very embarrassing situation: he did not want to break his vow but neither did he want to make the little one suffer from thirst. In the end, he did drink and the little boy did so, too.

That evening, the man did not dare look up to Heaven for fear that the star might have vanished.

You can imagine his surprise, then, when, after some time, he raised his eyes and saw two stars shining brightly on the mountain.

When young people feel that there are Religious and educators at their side giving their life for their happiness, as the merciful face of God made visible, they don't have need of a whole bunch of words. When they make some kind of mistake, the young person does not feel condemned but welcomed and understood just the same. In this way, even when their mistake is pointed out, they still feel they are a beloved child of God and that the merciful face of the Father shines in their life. Just as it happened in Don Bosco's life, when the young realize that we want them to be happy here and in eternity, they have a direct experience of how God loves them unconditionally.

Let us hope that this Jubilee Year continue to yield fruit even into the coming years. It is an opportunity to grow in humanity and to walk towards Peace, even when our steps sometimes seem so uncertain.

Let us continue to believe that our God accompanies us along our history even if, at times, in our freedom, we do things that seem to take us two steps backward instead of one step forward.

Despite all, my dear friends, let us allow our hearts to be touched by this God whose Name is Mercy.

*Fr Ángel Artime visiting the Sisters of Charity  
in Calcutta in September 2015*



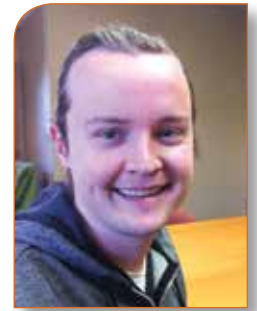


# A Pope for young people

By Michael Gartland

**O**ur Pope is a very cheeky man. Or perhaps amusingly honest captures his nature better. Innocently acerbic? Playfully provocative? Well, whatever it is, one thing is for sure: it works and it works incredibly well – how else do you get three million young people hanging off of your every word in a grassy Krakowian field? Anecdotally speaking, how else do you explain more and more people commenting that while they're not necessarily catholic, they do like this present pope?

I first noticed Francis' cheekiness early on in his very first speech at World Youth Day. Whilst reading from his prepared speech he proclaimed "In my years as a bishop, I have learned one thing." He then paused, grinned and with a glint in his eyes, commented "well, actually, I have learned many things... but I want to share one with you now." This sort of aside was a frequent feature in his speeches and, of course, these moments were always followed by hearty rounds of laughter and applause! (Unfortunately, many of these sorts of asides seem to have been cut from the Vatican's official translations; it may be that only the pre-prepared scripts were translated).



## Michael Garland

*Michael has been involved with the Salesians for a number of years mostly through the Don Bosco Camp and the Australian Salesian Youth Community (ASYC). In his spare time, he has also completed a bachelor's degree in Media Communication and a master's in Journalism & International relations.*

One of the most resounding themes that flowed throughout all of Francis' addresses was the need for young people to be active in the world. It pains him, he said, to see young people who have opted for "early retirement" by the age of 25; who have "thrown in the towel before the game has even begun, who are defeated even before they begin to play". As amusing as these quotes were, I couldn't help but feel honesty in his voice (transcending even the language barrier!), ensuring that, upon reflection, the accuracy and importance of these remarks was clear to me: the young of the world are the greatest hope for positive changes in our world.

Unsurprisingly, Pope Francis built up a strong catalogue of classic one liners across WYD; for me, his most memorable was his characterization of those who mislead young people down dark paths as being "vendors of smoke". I couldn't help but think I'd find that same line somewhere within former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's autobiography! Yet, this was different – the venom, the scorn, the scathing nature of such a remark was absent. Pope Francis' intention wasn't to insult, or to denigrate; he was speaking out of genuine concern for young people, urging those present to beware of such traps for themselves and those around them.

Francis' provocative nature has been well documented throughout his time as Pope and naturally, it was on full display at WYD. During his address at the vigil, he commented on a certain kind of paralysis in life: "Sofa-happiness" - the paralysis that comes from "confusing happiness with a sofa". Too often he said, young people rely on a sofa to feel comfortable, to escape from pain, fear, worry and hard work, to escape into a world of television, videogames and computer screens. Jesus, he said, "is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes". For us millennial, digital native generations living in well-off countries and societies, could anything be more provocative than having a go at video games and television screens? The Pope burst through our living room doors, issuing a vital call to action, a call to Jesus – and had a bit of fun doing so.

And herein, I believe, lies exactly why young people are so attracted, magnetized towards Pope Francis – he is with them, he knows them, he speaks to them, in their lingo. Despite claiming to be a "disaster" with technology, during his homily for the final Mass he urged his congregation to "download' the best 'link' of all, that of a heart which sees and transmits goodness without growing weary". There is, of course, something very Salesian about all of this; reminiscent of Don Bosco's teachings that as the water pump is where the youth are, it is where we must be.

This is a Pope that sees and feels the pain and suffering caused by a generation that is increasingly disconnected from each other and from Jesus and so proclaims the youthful face of mercy, the critical role the young have in being sowers of hope.

This is a Pope that is aware of a generation that is bombarded with a myriad of conflicting messages and images on how to live life and so, goes off script, speaks to young people (rather than at them), about mediums they understand, through mediums they use, in words and phrases they know and understand.

This is a Pope that is so finely in tune with a generation that is sceptical of authority figures and politicians that do not practice what the preach and so, places an emphasis on living in accordance to his teachings to the best of his abilities, in a very public, yet very ordinary, mundane way – catching public transport or surprise hospital visits are great examples of this.

It is here then, that we can and must, see and learn from Pope Francis' example; the young people are ready and willing (if not outright searching) for the right paths; it is our task to take their hand, walk alongside them and partake in the "adventure of building bridges and tearing down walls".



**Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes.**

Pope Francis



By Francis J. Moloney, SDB

# A Saint, A Pope: Mercy, and Compassion



## Fr Francis J. Moloney

Francis Moloney SDB joined the the Salesians in 1960 and was ordained a priest in 1970. He was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy from Oxford University in 1976. Since then he has a wide teaching and research experience in Australia, Europe, Israel and the USA.

**T**he canonization of Saint Teresa of Calcutta on Sunday 4 September 2016, was a moment that represented the very best aspect of Christianity: a public response that questions the death-dealing absolutes of current society, especially Western Society. In a world where the measure of success is one's achievements, no matter what it might cost those who are less gifted, including other peoples and nations, the Catholic Church has honoured someone whose relentless focus was upon those less privileged, in every way. Indeed, for Saint Teresa of Calcutta, not only those less privileged, but her relentless focus was upon those who would be generally regarded as *"without hope."* The fact that Pope Francis took this step during a year that he has declared *"The Year of Mercy,"* makes this event especially significant.

Currently, we can land a spacecraft on a comet, or fly from one side of the world to the other in 24 hours, communicate immediately with anyone in the world, cure once incurable illnesses, construct magnificent machines, bridge seas and valleys, construct glittering modern buildings, cities, communities, and much else. But we cannot handle the sectarian violence and horrific brutality that surrounds us, and erupts in our cities on a regular basis. We have just marked the anniversary of the acts of terror in New York that marked 9/11, and we are still fighting a *"war of revenge"* that began in Afghanistan, flowed into Iraq, and now embroils the whole of Syria and much of Africa.

The so-called *"Arab Spring"* has turned into a fight to the death, and irrational fear and insanely violent acts that reach the four corners of the earth: France, Belgium, Britain, and even into Martin Place in Sydney, Australia. In none of this do we see anything of the fundamental message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, heroically lived out by Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

We are supposed to be comforted by stern words from governments who promise that religious fundamentalism will be severely monitored by police, and that an alliance of international military forces will wipe out the unacceptable cruel inhumanity of the jihadists. Russia and the United States of America enter into an unholy alliance to protect their oil resources. None of this will bear ultimate fruit; it will produce only more frustration and violence. They are short-term, self-serving, responses to profound human crises and suffering. Only from Pope Francis do we hear the words *"mercy and forgiveness"* in these death-dealing conflicts. Only in the figure of Teresa of Calcutta do we see the public recognition of the authentic Christian response, as we continue to spiral into widespread and vicious violence.

The Pope is correct when he speaks of the need for the Catholic Church to face *"a change of era."* The Christian Churches themselves have made their contribution to this *"vicious violence,"* as history, and even recent history, have shown. Pope Francis is trying to lead us somewhere else, and we have not been there before! He challenges the Church, and through the witness of the Church, the whole world, with his message of mercy and forgiveness. But the message must be listened to by the Christian Churches, especially Francis' own Catholic Church, and put into practice. Let us start at home; indeed, in our homes. We must be seen as a prophetic appeal to all societies. It is proving to be difficult, as we can no longer hold our heads high as an untainted moral authority. This is especially if we Catholics hide behind a carefully-constructed age-old self-image, bolstered by its time-encrusted traditions, and an internal legal system that protects the offender at every turn. In a world of God-given mercy and forgiveness, Saint Paul expresses it well: *"I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me"* (2 Cor 12:9).



Paul's inspired words retain their truth. The present challenging times, when even some of Christianity's most beautiful and significant contributions are being attacked by an aggressive secularism can be seen as a grace, a challenging gift of God. This is a God-given time for us to accept the fundamental truth about mercy and forgiveness: they have their origins in God. As Pope Francis puts it:

We have known a love that is prior to any of our own efforts, a love that constantly opens doors and encourages. If we accept that God's love is unconditional, that the Father's love cannot be bought or sold, then we will become capable of showing boundless love and forgiving others even when they have wronged us (*Amoris Laetitia* 108).

Despite rigid authoritarianism, and an apparent inability to admit sinfulness on the part of some of us, it is not beyond the capacity of the Catholic community to become a beacon of forgiveness, mercy and compassion, even in the face of what we might regard as horrific insult and injury. Can we Catholic Christians joyfully and gratefully accept the holiness of fellow Christians, recognizing their ambiguity and their search for the loving presence of the crucified and risen Christ? My now long Catholic experience teaches me that we can, although not without difficulty. I think especially of our new saint, but not only of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. What of Jean Vanier, and the contributions of figures like Henri Nouwen's *The Wounded Healer*, to mention but a few spectacular examples? In the secular world, what of the contribution of *Médecins sans frontières (Doctors Without Borders)*? Such examples can be multiplied thousands of times from across the face of the Catholic, Christian, and secular world, however much they go unrecognized. No doubt each person reading these lines knows someone, or even several people, who show the true face of Jesus Christ in their mercy and compassion – whatever their personal beliefs and practices.

But Pope Francis bases his appeal for mercy upon the Christian Gospel. Sadly, he meets resistance from some people within the Christian and Catholic Churches. Such opposition indicates some of us do not accept that "mercy, compassion and forgiveness," especially for those who have failed, is not part of Catholic doctrine. Pope Francis will not accept such a view: "Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness" (*Amoris Laetitia*, 308). Whatever those who oppose the Holy Father might think, Francis has the Gospel on his side.

We must not be naïve in our expressions of mercy and compassion. Destructive sin remains powerfully present within society, including Christian and Catholic society. If we are honest with ourselves, we recognize that sin plays its damaging role in the life of each one of us. A recognition of the existence of sin and the damage it generates is a good place for all of us to start in our journey into greater mercy and compassion.

Only when are we able to admit our own mistakes that inflict sorrow and pain, are we given the gift of repentance. We can then experience repentance and forgiveness in a Christian community marked by relationships of faithful love and fruitful human relationships. This is one of the fundamental reasons for the existence of a Christian community: "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Baptism, repentance for sins, and God's forgiveness, have always provided the building blocks for Christian life. They are also the building blocks for the compassionate and merciful face of the Christian in the world. Human beings in their sinfulness are loved by God, if we can just keep moving towards God. When we *do* fall, if we only cry out with confidence, the fall is not into nothingness but into the arms of God stretched open once and for all on the Cross.

The baptized, recognizing their sinfulness, turn confidently to the presence of a loving and forgiving God in the celebration of the crucified and risen Christ at the Eucharist. It has always been a celebration of forgiveness for all whose repentance, hope and love, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, lead them to seek communion with God, Jesus Christ, and one another. Saint Teresa of Calcutta calls us to recognize that we have been blessed with a vocation to Baptism, the forgiveness of sins, and the compassionate, merciful expression of those fundamental Christian experiences. We are now called to manifest that we not only experience God's loving gift of his Son in the celebration of the Eucharist, but in the visible witness of people who *live* that loving gift in their Eucharistic lives.

## Saint Teresa of Calcutta

*Thousands of pilgrims thronged to St Peter's Square on Sunday, 4 September 2016, for the canonization of Mother Teresa, the tiny nun who cared for the world's most unwanted and became the icon of a Catholic Church that goes to the peripheries to tend to lost, wounded souls.*

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)



# Fr Robert Curmi Celebrating 60 years of priesthood



By Fr Peter Rankin

**I**t was the year television came to Australia and Melbourne hosted the Olympics that Fr Bob Curmi was ordained a priest on this very day, 1 July 1956. Fr Bob was ordained at the Salesian Mother House in Turin, Italy, where the mortal remains of our father and founder St John Bosco are kept. It was John Bosco himself who built this monument in honour of Mary Help of Christians. In the euphoria of the canonization of St John Bosco in 1934, the young Bob Curmi chose John Bosco as his confirmation name. What a special occasion for Fr Bob's family was his priestly ordination. It was only a few months later that Bob's father died. Fr Bob came from a good religious stock with three of his sisters becoming nuns.

Fr Bob has spent sixty years labouring in the Lord's vineyard as a Salesian priest. He has served in Chadstone (Vic), Engadine (NSW), Brooklyn Park (SA), Samoa and, since 1985, here at Dominic College. Some of his roles have included teacher, REC, missionary, chaplain, assistant priest. He has given wonderful example in prayer, humility, simple living, work and acts of kindness.

It was most fitting that we could acknowledge Fr Bob on this significant achievement at our full school Assembly last week. He was presented with a beautiful tree which is already planted in the garden on the driveway near the Savio Centre. A special plaque based at the foot of the tree to mark this special milestone will soon follow.



**Fr Peter Rankin**

*Fr Peter Rankin SDB is the Rector of Dominic College, Glenorchy, TAS*

## Fr Robert Curmi's celebrations with fellow Salesians, diocesan clergy and parishioners



On the Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the Salesian community hosted a lunch with fellow priests of the Archdiocese of Hobart. Archbishop Julian Porteous also attended the luncheon as well as Fr Bob's brother Victor who flew down to Hobart for the special occasion.

Fr Bob has been living and working in Glenorchy since 1985 and is well known amongst clergy and people alike and is a most respected priest in the Archdiocese.

On Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Fr Bob presided at the Eucharist. Fr Peter Rankin preached and the Archbishop was again present. In his homily Fr Peter developed three points: Fr Bob as a man of prayer, secondly Fr Bob who has shown a great capacity for work, and thirdly Fr Bob's priesthood that has been marked by the qualities of the Good Shepherd. St John's Church Glenorchy was packed as the parish cancelled other weekend Masses to give fitting tribute to mark the occasion. At the same time the parish celebrated 60 years. Fr John Wallis was the founding parish priest when it began in 1956.

Fr Bob cut a special cake after Mass. The celebrations were joyful faith-filled and uplifting for all who took part.

Only four other Salesians in our Province have reached these milestones, Fr John Cerrutti, Fr John Murphy (Senior), Fr Alan MacDonald and Fr Dan O'Sullivan. So Fr Bob has shared this Diamond Jubilee in elite company.

## First Delegate for the Pacific



Dear Salesians and Members of the Salesian Family, Warm greetings to you all from the Salesian Province Centre.

I wish to announce to you that, as a result of our recent province-wide consultation process, the Rector Major has appointed FR PETELO VITO PAU as our very first Delegate for the Pacific for 2017-2019. During this three-year period, Fr Petelo will also serve as a Member of the Provincial Council for the Australia-Pacific Province.

We warmly congratulate Petelo on his appointment as the first Leader of our new Pacific Delegation, which will formally commence on 1 January 2017.

Whilst wishing Petelo all the best in his ministry of animation and leadership, we also pledge our support and encouragement to all the members of the forthcoming Pacific Delegation which will include Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand.

Yours in Don Bosco,  
Fr Greg Chambers SDB, Provincial

### PACIFIC DELEGATION

A "Delegation" consists of a group of religious communities which find themselves in common and exceptional circumstances, such as in different countries and in a distant location from the centre of a province. This happens to be the case with the Salesian communities in Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand. The Salesian communities of the "Pacific Delegation" will remain part of the Australia-Pacific Province, but will also form a group with a Delegate of their own. The Salesian Provincial will transfer some of the decision-making authority to the Delegate. This should improve communication and the making of some decisions at the local level, and thus create a more efficient and prompt system of administration. It should also serve to improve the mission of evangelization and education of those communities that belong to the Delegation.

## World Youth Day, Krakow, Poland

# What a true privilege!



### Teaghan Dolan

*Teaghan Dolan is a member of the Australian Salesian Youth Community (ASYC) based in Melbourne.*

**H**ow do you describe something so intricate? You can begin down one road and unintentionally end up on another, meandering through your heart.

When thinking about the experience of World Youth Day (WYD), it is an occasion that began what seems now like a lifetime ago. Since hosting American pilgrims prior to Sydney WYD 2008, I have continually been sparked with curiosity about such an experience. Intermittently the occasion popped up on the horizon for me over the subsequent years, but only in the last 12 months has that initial curiosity turned into an undying passion to become part of such an experience. Little did I know the joyful and loving community I knew the Salesians to be, could traverse time, all borders and languages.

Despite this continual curiosity surrounding such an occasion, though, World Youth Day has always seemed so unattainable – an occasion for the confident, the most holy, the most devoted, the most willing to answer. And if you let yourself dwell on this idea enough, you endure an incredibly anxious journey to World Youth Day, to only stumble over your own tired feet with the words ‘Come as you are’ ringing in your ears.

And so the journey began; the Salesian spirit was alive and young. As we gathered together in Valdocco - Turin, Italy was no longer a simple stop on our itinerary as we made our way to Krakow. For many of us, to be Salesian had previously meant camp, work, school, or even, for some, a way of life; and so, as we drew together to share in the Eucharist at Valdocco, the previously tangible and palatable nature of our Salesianity was dissolved into a true embrace of love and family. Walking together in the footsteps of Don Bosco, as we began our World Youth Day Pilgrimage, we were grounded by the opportunity to spend time in a place of such inspiration. Valdocco provided a true centre for both our own personal journeys and a place of Salesian community – a home far beyond our postal address.

That initial flight over, now a distant memory, feeling refreshed yet weary, World Youth Day arrived: travelling to Poland, via Italy, and the Czech Republic with the Salesian Youth Movement amongst 20 other young Salesians. We journeyed together to Poland from start to end, transitioning from mere strangers and peers, to brothers and sisters, arriving a family in Poland.

World Youth Day is nothing short of an attack on your senses. It's vibrant, loud and joyful, yet quiet, peaceful and nourishing. It's raw with emotion. Some of it makes perfect sense, and some of it makes no sense at all, and in any other context it would probably be all too much – and at times it was. But there we were, a small community joined together with thousands of other young people, sharing in a common bond through our deep love and trust in God, together creating a swarm of warmth that engulfed Krakow for the week of World Youth Day.

The main events were both overwhelming and spectacular. The atmosphere was incredible; amongst so many – the crowds never ending – there was an indescribable stillness. No amount of words can capture the humility felt as we sat together, listening to the scriptures and true wisdom shared by the various Bishops and the Holy Father – truly united in prayer, together in our faith, sharing in the Eucharist.

The Holy Father spoke most passionately of the need our world has for the young. In a time where we find ourselves surrounded by much turmoil, conflict and oppression that is received by many with a face of heartache and a loss of hope, Pope Francis called upon today's youth to 'come out of retirement' and bring the vibrant love and hope that can be shared most greatly through the heart of the young with the world. The time of the young is now more than ever. A great challenge of the Holy Father, yet a faithful voice of encouragement, as we experience an age of youth filled with doubt and disbelief in their lives. Pope Francis asked us to recognise the great gift we have received in Jesus Christ, in His passion for life: this expression reminding us all of the importance of the need to shed what we are surrounded by – the material, the impermanent and ill-satisfying – for the gifts we already have received in His abundant grace.

Again, a voice of great challenge in the theme of World Youth Day – 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy' – spoke to each of us in a most personal way. Through scripture, deed, and silence we were awakened to the need to both seek God's mercy and show mercy to others. In challenging us to submit to our Father's mercy, Pope Francis called upon us to recognise the way that Jesus calls us towards the future, and our greatness that lies ahead. The youthful face of the Father's mercy lies in great challenge for the many pilgrims of World Youth Day, as we look towards our own futures and encounter opportunities to meet others in humble embrace of the Lord's mercy.

People have often asked me why I decided to go to World Youth Day – a fair question to someone who decided to travel half way across the world for something of olympic scale that barely anyone outside of the Church has heard of. I'm sure I could come up with many reasons, but they would only just scrape the surface. When it boils down to it, the answer, as to why I went, is still largely unclear. World

Youth Day was incredibly powerful, in both the love it allowed us young Catholics to experience, and in the words it enabled us to hear, both spoken and unspoken.

As World Youth Day drew to a close, at the final Mass, the Holy Father addressed his audience with a most powerful message that resonated with all young people, both those in attendance and those in our parishes. Pope Francis said 'We can say that World Youth Day begins today and continues tomorrow in your homes, since that is where Jesus wants to meet you', calling on us all to not fall asleep in our faith as the youth of the Church. And so we pray together for all young people, both those recently returned from Krakow and those at home, that we may be messengers of hope and love in sharing our faith with the youth of today.

As I sit, writing this article, reflecting on the experience that World Youth Day has been, trying to justly articulate something much greater than I, continually questioning if I've said enough, I am reminded of the simple beauty that we, as a community, were able to be immersed in just for a fraction of time. The greatness of World Youth Day is in its ability to unify the young through one single belief. A single belief that can be trialled time and time again, yet it always remains in the arm outstretched towards a stranger, the relentless will to make others lives better, because, to simply live is not enough.

And so with all things said and done, World Youth Day not to return to the international stage until 2019 in Panama, where do we turn to next? We must turn back to who is at the centre, Jesus Christ. The Church of the young is not in the big events or restricted to the journey we share with our fellow pilgrims; the Church of the young is in the small acts, in the daily encounters and in the willingness to live the Way of the Lord, the Truth and Light. The heart of the Church for the youth of today is in our ability to love and be loved.



# A Journey of Hope

## A Salesian Principal visits Timor Leste

By Mark Brockhus



### Mark Brockhus

*Mark Brockhus is the Principal of Salesian College Rupertswood, Sunbury, a Catholic co-educational secondary school in the north-western suburbs of Melbourne with an enrolment of approximately 1200 students.*

**E**ach year in January I receive a call from Fr Phil Gleeson, Rector of our Formation House in Clifton Hill, to see if I would be happy to host one of the students at 'Rupertswood' for three weeks before the University year begins. I'm always happy to help out since Salesian College students have always been the beneficiary of enthusiastic and very interesting young men with hearts of gold. These past two years, we have been fortunate to host Brothers Abilio and Lourenco, who have generously shared their experiences of Timor Leste with staff and students, sparking the curiosity of this Principal to find out more about one of our countries nearest neighbours, and thus providing the motivation for a visit to – sadly – the poorest country in South East Asia.

And so it was at the end of a very long and busy term 2, that I embarked on a journey of discovery to the Salesian Community of 'Collegio Dom Bosco' in Fuiloro, approx. six hours drive east of Dili. I found out about Fuiloro from Br Michael Lynch, Director of Missions at Ascot Vale, who suggested this co-ed school of approximately 1000 students with student ages from 5 to 18 would be the 'perfect match' for Salesian College Sunbury. And so, after numerous emails and a few phone calls, I managed to convince Fr Transfiguracao Pinto, Rector of the community, to approve my visit and collect me from Dili International Airport after the short flight from Darwin. The six hour drive by 4WD was anything but smooth, with the road to Fuiloro scarred with potholes, some as wide and almost as deep as the truck itself!

There was no chance of a passenger seat snooze as I held on grimly throughout the bumpy but enjoyable ride. I managed to see firsthand the terrible state of the country's infrastructure after its bitter struggle for independence from Indonesia. Many countries, including Australia and the US, have supported Timor Leste during its early days as the world's newest nation, but there is a long, long way still to go. Despite the obvious poverty, it was clear from the first day that the people here had a resource much richer than I had seen in any country I had travelled in – JOY! It was exactly what Abilio and Lourenco had brought to 'Rupertswood'.

Collegio Dom Bosco is situated inland from the coast on a beautiful and very fertile plateau. There is a boarding facility for about 80 boys on-site, and the Salesian Sisters care for another 80 girls at the convent nearby. The remaining students travel from Monday to Saturday to the school, walking long distances from their villages to be at school by 8:00 a.m. The school operates its own farm, with much of the corn, vegetables, coconuts, beef, and milk used to feed all the students. On my arrival, I was greeted by the boarders and members of the community who were preparing the school for the Annual Feast Day; what a treat it was! The boys had 'prepared' the meat, one cow and two goats, and the girls were cleaning vegies and rice in order to feed the over 500 students who were expected the next day.

The students were keen to practise their English, sharing their names, one was nicknamed 'killer' – can you guess why – while others asked me all about Australia and why I was there. I told them I was keen to see if we could establish a relationship between our schools that would see some of our students visiting and helping out on the farm, as well as offering the possibility of sponsoring several students to visit Sunbury. They seemed very keen on the idea!

The feast day celebration was amazing. Children were 'bussed' in on small tip-trucks from over 16 different villages just for the occasion. It was a day of music, dance, worship and food, all interspersed with much laughter and happiness. THIS is what Don Bosco meant by Gospel of Joy! It was incredible, and so much fun.

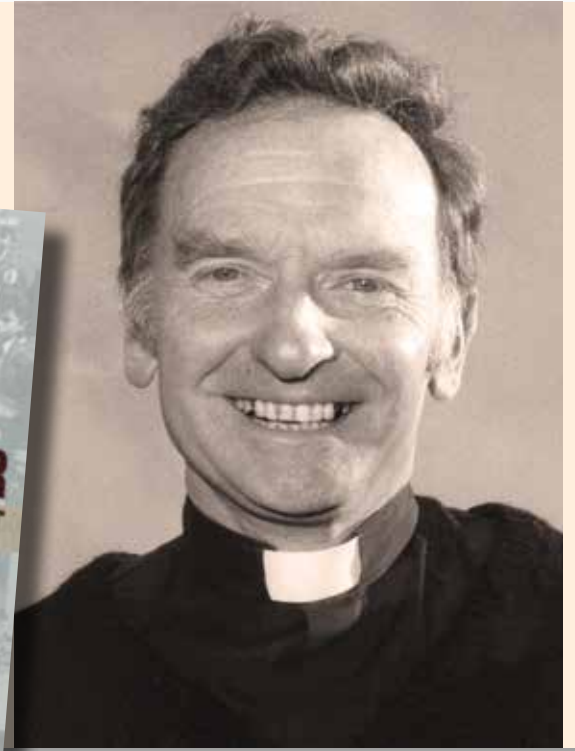
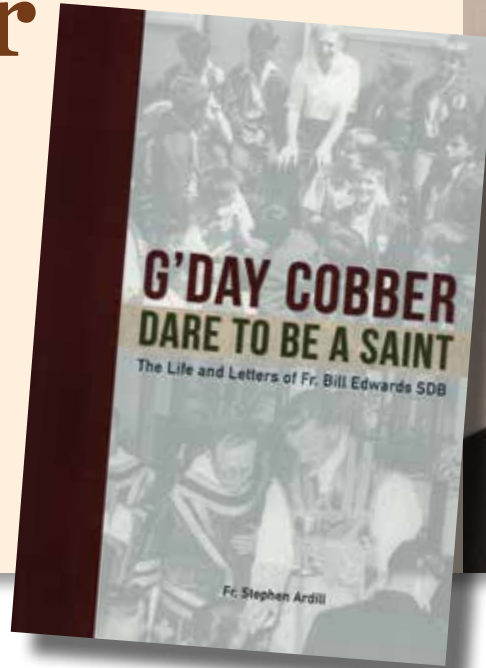
My week at the school gave me the opportunity to see the school and the community in action. The day starts at 5.30 a.m. with wake up and shower using a bucket and cold water, followed by morning Mass. It finishes about 8 p.m. with the Rosary recited by the Boarders and with the Salesian Goodnight.

The College farm is an amazing resource with an equally amazing staff. Fr Trans has a dream that the school can be self-sufficient for food in the coming years. The first project to come out of this visit will be the establishment of a 5,000 bird poultry shed that will help add valuable protein to the diets of all the students. Once we find a producer here in Australia, students studying Agriculture at Sunbury will accompany the chicks to Timor later this year and ensure they get a good start.

On the journey back to Dili with Fr Trans, I visited a number of other Salesian schools and communities doing amazing work with the youth of Timor Leste, especially with the teaching of trade and practical skills. Timor Leste has a long way to go to improve the living standards of all its citizens, but there is one resource they have in abundance and are willing to 'export', namely, happiness! When I returned to Australia, I spent a few days in Darwin to enjoy the usual tourist attractions. Sitting on Mindil Beach in Darwin one evening watching the sun set, I realised how hopeful and positive I had become for the future, not just Timor Leste's and Collegio Dom Bosco's, but for my own community in Sunbury who are really excited about what this new partnership might produce. We are so fortunate to be members of this wonderful Salesian fraternity, and I encourage other schools to link arms with their 'confreres' across the globe.



# A story of love, laughter and letters



## The life and letters of Fr Bill Edwards SDB



### Fr Steve Ardill

Steve Ardill met Fr Bill Edwards in 1987. Fr Bill became for him a wonderful friend, mentor and spiritual guide over many years. Fr Steve now is the parish priest at St Mary of the Angels Parish in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

**O**n 27 June 2016, a new book, entitled *G'Day Cobber, Dare to be a Saint: The Life and Letters of Fr Bill Edwards SDB*, was officially launched by Mrs Colleen Andrews OAM. The author, Father Stephen Ardill, is a priest of the Diocese of Port Pirie in South Australia. The ceremony was hosted by St Joseph's School, Barmera, and the school's principal, Mr Lee Abela, was the Master of Ceremonies. Many who attended were from the local Our Lady of the River Parish which encompasses the Catholic communities of Barmera, Berri, Blanchetown, Cadell, Renmark, Loxton, Morgan and Waikerie.

Father Stephen Ardill, a priest of the Diocese of Port Pirie in South Australia, spent ten years as the loved and respected pastor of the Riverland Catholic communities. He spent some time in 1987 with the Salesians in discerning his vocation. It was then he met Fr Bill Edwards who became a wonderful friend, mentor and spiritual guide over many years. Fr Steve is now parish priest at St Mary of the Angels Parish in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

Representing the Provincial, Father Greg Chambers, was the Editor of the Australian Salesian Bulletin, Father Frank Freeman, who thanked Fr Stephen Ardill on behalf of the Salesians from Perth in Western Australia to Samoa for his research and the book. The Rector of the Salesian community of Brooklyn Park Adelaide, Fr Joseph Lee, was also in attendance and in his address spoke of the outstanding qualities of Fr Bill Edwards.

In responding Fr Stephen Ardill spoke of his lifelong friend and mentor.

*Recently I used a five months sabbatical leave to fulfil a dream to honour the life and legacy of a special cobber, priest, mentor, spiritual guide and best friend, Fr Bill Edwards*

*Fr Bill is responsible for the story. It is a story compiled from his letters, hundreds of letters, which he meticulously wrote to people all over the world. Across his many years of general service he would have emptied hundreds of pens, posted thousands of letters and written hundreds of thousands of words. His letters were always personal, interesting, insightful, encouraging and positive, and often contained rich spiritual nourishment. He regarded letter writing as an integral part of his priestly ministry. I suspect he would have turned his hand to it every day.*



*This is a story of blessings and brokenness as he strived to uncover God's will for his life and live it with grace, generosity and fidelity. It is the story of a boy from Wollongong who spent his whole life in the service of God and people as a Salesian priest.*

*Fr Bill's death notice published in Melbourne's Herald Sun newspaper stated: He had an uncanny closeness to young people, especially those most in need. His profound humanity, gentle sense of humour and his ability to endure adversity and support others in adversity single him out as a remarkable human being and follower of Christ. At the time of his death, the then Provincial of the Salesians in Australia wrote: Rejoice in the life of this man whom I would regard as perhaps the Australian Salesian who most closely resembled Don Bosco himself.*

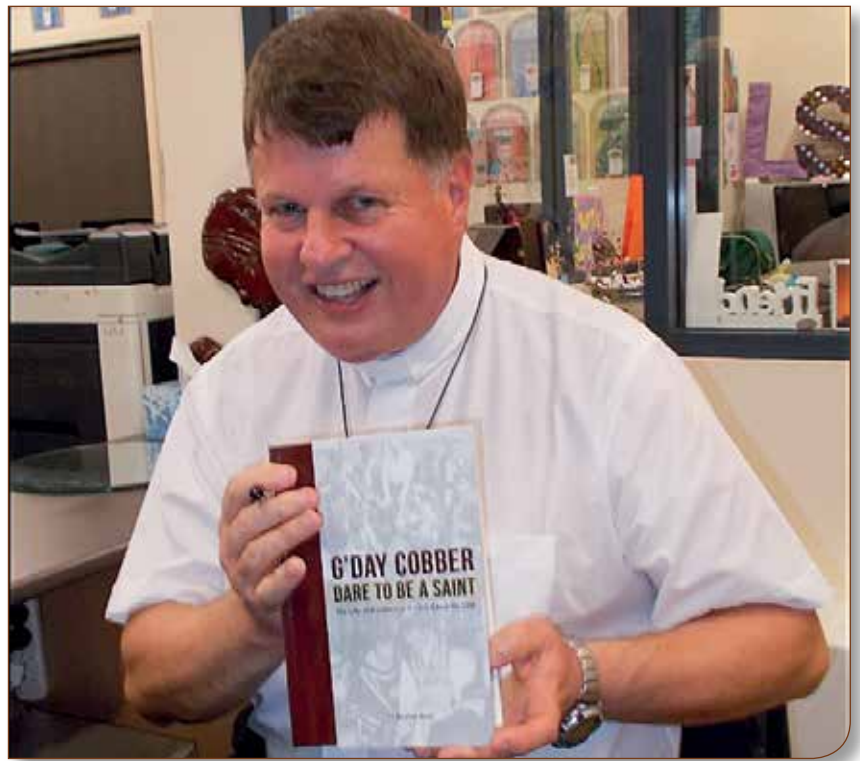
*Fr Bill was ordained a priest in July 1956, twelve months before I was born, by Cardinal Norman Gilroy, a former Bishop of the Port Pirie Diocese. That marked the beginning of fifty years of incredible service, sacrifice and availability.*

*Fr Bill's priestly ministry can be broken up into two discreet periods. For almost forty years Fr Bill served in the Australian Church, mainly in Melbourne. The next eleven years Fr Bill served as a missionary in Samoa and then Fiji.*

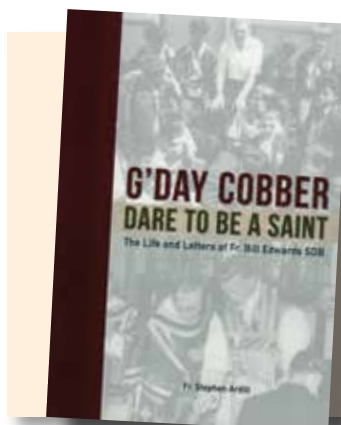
*Fr Bill had an unshakable conviction about sanctity. He believed that every Christian was called to be a saint and that saints were made in the generous and faithful living out of God's will in everyday life. He challenged the young he taught, the future priests he formed and everyone he met to dare to be a saint.*

*This is a story of love, laughter and letters, a story remarkable both in its simplicity and in the breadth of its embrace and inspiration. Countless lives have been touched and transformed by the prayers, preaching, pen and personal encounters with this priest of and for the people. I hope you are as inspired in the reading of Fr Bill's story as I have been in the writing!*

The gratitude of the confreres of Fr Bill is very aptly expressed by Fr Brendan Murphy in his forward. "Fr Bill's Salesian brothers and sisters are indebted to Fr Steve for sharing his memories and correspondence, for reminding us of the treasure God gave us in Fr Bill... Thank you Fr Steve for your gift to Fr Bill's many friends. May this story of Fr Bill introduce him to many new friends and inspire them as he inspired us."



*The author, Fr Steve Ardill, and Fr Bill Edwards celebrating Mass together*



**G'Day Cobber**  
can be purchased from:

**Fr Steve Ardill**

PO Box 144 Port Lincoln S.A. 5606

phone (08) 8682 3725 or

[frsteve@stalbert.catholic.edu.au](mailto:frsteve@stalbert.catholic.edu.au)

# God Bless our 2016 Jubilarians



**S**unday 18th September, was indeed a red-letter day in our Province as the Sisters from our five communities in Australia gathered to pay tribute to our seven FMA Jubilarians of 2016.

In this day and age when 'long term' commitments are hard to come by - mainly because our world is changing so rapidly - milestones like these call for recognition of these wonderful women who for 75, 65, 60, 50 and 40 years have lived their "Yes" to the God of their journey, giving themselves fully and whole-heartedly for the Kingdom and for good of others, especially the young people, in the Spirit of St John Bosco and St Maria Mazzarello. Well done Sisters!

Having planned this day as part of our Province Assembly and the celebration of our Province Gratitude Day, the Sisters paid special tribute to our dearly loved Sr Esperanza 75 years of profession, Sr Josephine Bargigli - one of our pioneers - 65 years of profession, Sr Teresa Fossati, 60 years, Sr Delma Lamb, Sr Marguerite Nguyen and Sr Olga D'Cruz 50 years and Sr Anna Pham 40 years.

The celebration commenced with a lively and special Eucharist led by the Salesian Provincial, Fr Greg Chambers, and concelebrated by Fr Julian Cavarzan. This music-filled, meaningful Eucharist, in gratitude to God for all the blessings, was followed

by a celebratory lunch during which our jubilarians were presented with a special 'award' to mark each of their significant milestones.

While each of our jubilarians celebrated their special milestones in their respective communities, it was fitting that these women, who have 390 years between them spent in service to God and to the young following in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Maria Mazzarello, should be honoured in this manner.



## Sr Esperanza – 75 years

Our most precious diamond in the SPR crown  
75 years and your commitment goes on and on;

To us you are an inspiration,

Someone like you is the best of God's creation.

Your FMA life you live with dedication

With your smile and constant prayer supplication.

75 years of "yes" to God: Congratulations !

Sr Esperanza you truly are the diamond  
And precious pearl of our SPR Province.

**By Sr  
Rochelle  
Lamb FMA**



**Sr Josephine – 65 years**

“Serve the lord with joy”

The first chapter of the history of our Province was written,  
With you among the four,  
That red letter day in 1954.  
Sr Jo you are our pioneer we so love and esteem;  
For 65 years you have served God and  
the young of the South Pacific.  
Our respect and admiration to you we give  
Our thanks for your pioneering spirit and commitment  
Which In our province from generation to generation will live.



**Sr Teresa – 60 years**

“The will of God will never lead you,  
where the grace of God cannot keep you”  
With this thought ever in your mind,  
Sr Teresa, you have lived 60 years of your FMA life,  
Being the face of God To everyone you ministered to.  
Your courageous missionary spirit  
In leaving your country to follow God’s call  
Has been a blessing for our SPR province.  
We thank God for you.  
Congratulations and thanks for the past 60 years.



**Sr Olga – 50 years**

“Make of my life a lamp and my tender heart its wick.  
Let it burn day and night before you Lord”  
Sr Olga, for 50 years this has been your prayer.  
The light that you shine is the light of Christ  
As you sought to make Him known and  
loved in the past 50 years.  
May you continue to shine the light of Christ  
By your witness as an FMA.



**Sr Delma – 50 years**

“I will thank and praise you Lord”  
Sr Delma, like Mary, you have reason to proclaim  
‘The Lord has done marvels for me; I will thank and praise God.’  
We thank God indeed for your commitment  
over the past 50 years.  
May you continue to show the face of Christ  
To the many young and not so young people you minister to.



**Sr Marguerite – 50 years**

“I am the Way the Truth and the Life”  
Sr Marguerite, over the past 50 years,  
You have followed Jesus  
Who is the Way the Truth and the Life.  
And you in turn have helped many a young person  
To find their own path and way to life.  
May God continue to bless you with health and many blessings.



**Sr Anna – 40 years**

“Do not fear your God is with you;  
He will not leave or abandon you”  
This promise of Jesus has been your strength  
Over the past 40 years.  
Congratulations Sr Anna and thanks for your service  
And commitment to God, to our Province  
And to all those you minister to, especially the young.

# Saint Teresa of Calcutta

## She loves and protects the Salesians



### Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa and the then Rector Major, Fr Egidio Viganò, at the 22nd General Chapter of the Salesians in April 1984.

**O**n Sunday 4 September, in an atmosphere of joy and light, Pope Francis enrolled Mother Teresa of Calcutta among the saints, offering her as a model of holiness for all the world of voluntary service. She is a woman and a consecrated religious of our time that, guided by the Spirit, embodied mercy by treating every person, especially the poor and defenceless, as a human person and a brother or sister in the Lord.

Mother Teresa had several contacts with the Salesians. Worthy of particular mention was the meeting of 17 April 1984 between Mother Teresa and the members of the 22nd General Chapter led by the Rector Major, Fr Egidio Viganò. Here are some passages from what she had to say on that occasion. They serve as a message from her to the congregation today.

*“Don Bosco had a great love for the poor. He always saw Jesus in them, believing the word of Jesus. He knew, not only by an act of faith, but from deep conviction, that what he was doing for poor young people was done for Jesus himself ... What strikes me most in youth is the desire to pray, and then turn their prayer into service. Service as the fruit of prayer is indeed very important for you and for us... St John Bosco must be very happy to see that his*

*Congregation retains that love for the poorest of the poor. Guard it with your life and with your work.*

*It is the greatest gift of God to your Society – love the poor and work for the poor. Do not let anyone or anything separate your love for Christ from love for the poor! It is so easy to let someone or something take away the joy of loving and serving the poor. They are the greatest gift of God to us! Today, hunger is not only for a piece of bread ... it is also the hunger to be loved, to feel cared for. ... The priest's contribution is to give the peace and joy that spring from love. Being naked is not just a matter of not having clothes to wear. It is also the lack of dignity, the loss of purity, lack of respect: many treat the poor as if they were nothing! ... People are hungry for love and hungry for esteem. People often don't even have time to smile. There is a lot of suffering in the world, precisely because everyone is busy. This is why we have to be present with our prayers, teaching people to pray, because families that pray together stay together, and if they stay together they will be able to love each other as God loves each one of them ... Let's help each other with prayer and sacrifice, so that we may be able to continue to be God's love and compassion for all those who meet us, and that we may be able to share with them the joy of loving and serving God.”*

# Dunlee Centre girls visit State Parliament



On 22 June 2016, the girls of the Maria unit at the Dunlea Centre in Engadine were fortunate enough to be given a very special tour of the NSW State Parliament as the guests of Lee Evans, the Member of Parliament for Heathcote. Mr Evans had attended a fundraising dinner that the girls had organised earlier in the year as part of their efforts to raise money for a school camp; he was so impressed with the initiative and effort that the girls had shown that he invited them to join him for lunch and a behind the scenes tour of the State Parliament.

The girls were treated to morning tea in the Parkes room, the oldest part of the Parliament building, and were given an excellent insight into the workings of State Parliament by Rita Bila, the Parliamentary Education Officer, all while enjoying fantastic cream and jam scones which they all felt was a definite highlight. The girls were then given a behind the scenes look at the main kitchens that serve all of the various dining rooms and cafes within the Parliament; this was overseen by Phil Freeman, the Director of Parliamentary Catering. The girls were able to see the preparation and service of the lunches, speak to some of the chefs and kitchen staff as well as have a personal session with Phil who gave them the benefit of his experience of what it is like to work in hospitality.

Whilst the girls thought that they were making their way to lunch, they were led as a complete surprise to meet the NSW Premier, The Honourable Mike Baird. To say that the girls were a little awestruck would be an understatement, but they recovered well and gave a wonderful account of themselves. Mr Baird was very impressed, even more so when he heard of some of the challenges that they have faced in their lives and the hard work that they continue to do as part of their programs at the Dunlea Centre.

Next it was lunch in the chambers of the Speaker of the House, The Honourable Shelley Hancock. She impressed upon the girls the importance of the work of the State Government and the role that she plays in ensuring fair and even debate when the Parliament is in session. The girls were once again treated to excellent catering in a historically significant and beautiful location.

The last stop on the tour was as guests of Mr Evans in the public gallery of Parliament for question time. It was a genuinely informative and eye-opening experience for all of the girls as they were able to see the members of Parliament debating issues and legislation live in front of them. It was an excellent day and a wonderful experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all of the students and staff alike, and it helped to reinforce a theme that we have had in the Maria unit this year, that if you work hard and challenge yourself, positive things can happen for you.

## Dunlea Centre

*The Dunlea Centre at Engadine, NSW, works in partnership with families to help bring about change. The philosophy is based on the belief that every person is unique and specially valued in the eyes of God. Its inspiration is derived from its founder, Father Thomas Dunlea.*

# Cagliario Project Immersion



*By Lauren Hichaaba*

**T**he major focus for Cagliario Project, the overseas Salesian volunteer program based in Australia, is the sending of long-term volunteers. The program sent its first volunteer to Thailand in 2008. Since then we have sent over 45 long-term volunteers to Samoa, Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Zambia. In 2009 we began a yearly immersion experience to give our school students and young people an opportunity to experience life in another country and to learn about another culture. This year our group of young immersion participants headed to Samoa for the immersion. The group was composed of amazing young people from our schools and works all over Australia.

The immersion took place in our four different Salesian parishes across both islands of Samoa. The group participated in three different homestay experiences. Homestays were no doubt the most challenging, rewarding and immersive aspect of the journey. Each family welcomed our young people with the same openness and generosity they would extend to their own kin. We learned very quickly about the incredible hospitality of the Samoan people and their capacity to love. In addition to the homestays, we also participated in Kava ceremonies, cultural days and we did lots of singing and dancing! At every opportunity our group ran games and workshops to bring some of our culture to Samoa, so the experience was one of true cross cultural sharing.

Our group were such fantastic representatives of our Salesian schools and works in Australia and such a fine example of Salesian young people. Every single participant was open and willing to engage in all aspects of the immersion. The same also has to be said about our Salesian young people in Samoa. Their openness in sharing the positive and challenging aspects of their lives with us was humbling. Overall the experience was incredible.

A big thank you to all of the SDB personnel that made the immersion possible in Samoa. They all worked very hard to ensure that our immersion was a positive experience.

The Salesians in Samoa are doing such great work in their parishes and schools and it was wonderful to witness their efforts first hand. It is a real blessing that the Australia-Pacific Province encompasses such diversity so we can have these encounters. There was a lot of sadness for the group as we left Samoa. However, the overwhelming feeling was one of gratitude for the special experience that we all had and the friendships that we formed.

# A Lifetime of Dedicated Service

## The remarkable story of Ethel Catherine (Judy) Mullan

By Fr John Gandini SDB (adapted)



**T**he 16th March 2016 brought life's journey to a close for a remarkable lady and treasured friend to so many people. Judy, as she was commonly called, was born near Narrogin (the backblocks of Australia as she would say) on the 11th August 1918 to William and Ethel Mullan (nee Farr) who had been early settlers and farming people in the area for many years. She was educated by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions at their boarding school in Narrogin before transferring to Perth to take up a career in nursing.

She did her professional training in three WA country hospitals and graduated from the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital in 1940. Her nursing career would take her far and wide not only within Australia but abroad in countries such as India, the UK, Denmark, Canada, and Nieu Island in the Pacific. Returning to Australia after her dedicated service abroad she held the position of Matron at the District Hospitals in Broome, Carnarvon, Onslow, Wyndham, Exmouth and Dampier concluding her career at the Mt Henry Hospital in South Perth in 1978. She would often recall memories of the WA outback: the heat, the dirt, the dust, the character of patients and their many

unusual health problems, the adverse situations, the restricted medical supplies and the adventurous challenges of delivering a baby in mid-flight on a Royal Flying Doctor Service plane or sharing a flight in the Kimberley with the maverick flying Bishop of Broome, The Most Reverend John Jobst SAC (1920-1993). She fostered fond memories of those years and cherished the lasting friendships with the many good people she had met.

Shortly before her official retirement she bought a small Unit in Victoria Park (locality Burswood) and she often wondered if she would survive the confined space after so much world-wide travelling but she soon realised that what the Lord had in mind for her didn't really require the restricted space of a small Unit. She would continue to spend most of the next twenty-five years caring for the clergy of her local Salesian parish of St Joachim's in Victoria Park. Her dedicated service and care free-of-charge and her bountiful generosity in so many ways became the hallmark of her existence over these years. She would never complain and her words of encouragement were always most edifying in assuring hope and strength.



### *Ethel Mullan*

*Edith completed her nursing training at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital in 1940. Her nursing career took her all round the world.*

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# Pokémon Go – society’s latest obsession

## Could we ever become obsessed with holiness?



### Fr Steve Ryan

Fr Steve Ryan SDB is the Director of the Mary Help of Christians Centre in Tampa, Florida, USA. He is also the Director of Salesian Summer Camps, holiday programmes for young people ages 5-15 run during the summer break.

### By Fr Steve Ryan SDB

**W**ithin the first weeks of its release, the new smartphone game Pokémon Go has become a worldwide craze. In the last few months I had several summer camp leaders playing it whenever we had an outing on weekends – which made me think that the game was a short-term American thing. When I went to World Youth Day in Poland, I was surprised to see that “Pokémon hunting” is a worldwide phenomenon.

The game is a location-based, augmented reality mobile game. It uses the camera on the smartphone to project an image of a Pokémon, a virtual creature in the game. The objective is to capture as many of these creatures as possible and battle other people’s Pokémon monsters. The playing field for the game is one’s own location and surroundings. The combination of “virtual” and “real” is what seems to draw people in.

What could possibly go wrong with traveling across cities, glued to a phone, looking for fictitious creatures? Well, besides many accounts of people who have twisted their ankles, busted their shins, cut up their hands, and sustained other injuries because they were more concerned with finding Pokémon than watching where they were going, endless hours of time that could be spent helping other people or learning new things (wisdom, knowledge, skills) are wasted on a game. Time and effort that a person could spend on some pursuit that would help them prepare for a full and well-rounded life are being wasted on a distraction.



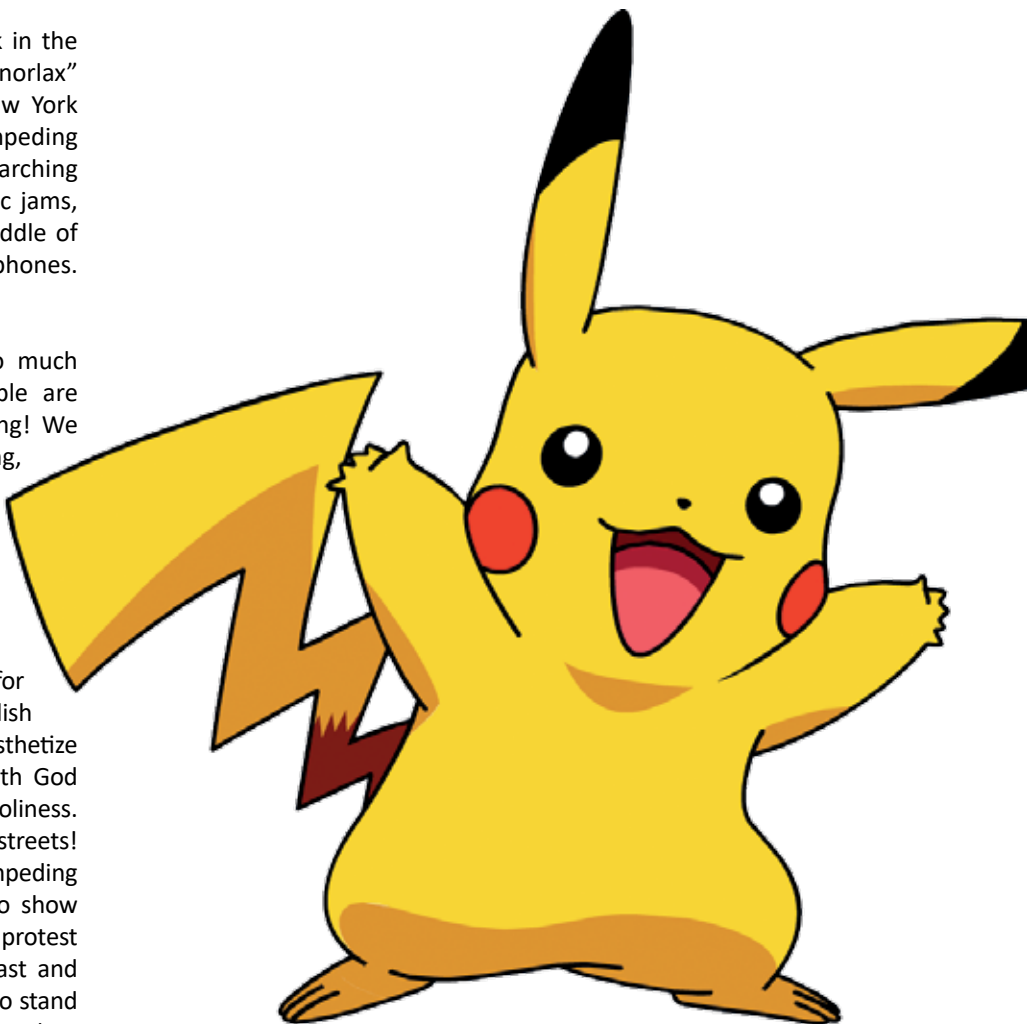
The Pokémon craze certainly shows that people, especially young people, are searching for something (not just Pokémons). They want an adventure! They want a quest. They want a cause! Too bad, holiness is not as attractive to them. God is our ultimate destiny, and holiness IS the “real game of life.” We Christians have to find a way to make the quest to become a saint so attractive that people will become obsessed with it.

In Illinois, crowds gathered at one o’clock in the morning and searched frantically for a “Snorlax” monster. Additionally, at Central Park in New York City, hundreds of players were seen stampeding through the streets glued to their phones searching for another rare Pokémon. This caused traffic jams, with people abandoning their cars in the middle of the street and following the masses on their phones. All for a virtual monster.

The fact that such a game is gaining so much worldwide attention is evidence that people are “searchers.” We are made to seek something! We have a built-in desire to “look for” something, and that something is in fact God! It’s baffling, however, that that pursuit for the Almighty can easily be sidetracked into pursuing pleasure, power, purse – and this, our latest craze, virtual creatures.

Pokémon Go is another “cool substitute” for our innate search for the Lord. We are so foolish that we fall for distractions that will easily anesthetize us and prevent us from coming to terms with God and the challenging and sacrificial path of holiness. Pokémon hunters are stampeding through the streets! Could anyone imagine hundreds of people stampeding through the streets at a moment’s notice, to show solidarity for the poor and marginalized? Or to protest the thousands of Christians in the Middle East and Africa who are being killed for their faith? Or to stand up against the way our government treats asylum seekers?

Society allows itself to be led into a type of cyber-tribalism where a phone or game is the shaman. The players are all too willing to act as obsessed subjects. No thanks, for me – I’ll go with Jesus Christ and radical discipleship. It’s an obsession that’s been around for 2,000 years, and one that won’t die out.



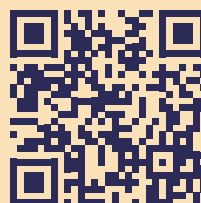
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# SIVA 16

## A joyous Salesian celebration of Samoan culture



**S**alesian schools, parishes and community groups across Australia were treated to an exuberant and joyous celebration of Samoan culture by students from Don Bosco Technical Centre, Alafua. The Don Bosco Dance Troupe toured Australia for almost four weeks in late August and early September. The joy-filled, but thought provoking and energetic performances of the Don Bosco students were deeply moving, and shared something of the beauty of the Samoan culture from a very Salesian perspective.

Siva is the Samoan word for dance and, according to Mr Greg Hay, Principal of St Mark's College Port Pirie, the Don Bosco siva troupe "caused an explosion of goodwill, fun, mountainous plates of food and pulsing song and international connections... There was prayer, singing and extraordinary dance. The echoes of drumming still reverberates... We enjoyed the extraordinary energy created by the visit. Their movement, voices, joy, reverence and broadest of smiles were engaging and entertaining. They have a faithfulness and enthusiasm which is contagious... there was something sacred about it as well."

Don Bosco Technical Centre has a proud history of providing high quality cultural entertainment on the national stage, and their international performances did not disappoint their audiences in schools, parishes, Samoan communities and aged care facilities. People, old and young, Samoan and Palagi, students and parishioners, were captivated by the performances of the Don Bosco boys, which included a mix of song, traditional dancing, contemporary dancing and story-telling. Tamara Puni, host and presenter of TV Samoa Melbourne, commented that "Don Bosco has always been renowned for setting the standard for dancing in Samoa, but now they have taken it to a whole new level."

Mrs Janet Coomber, APRIM at Xavier College, Gawler reflected that the group came "to share their culture and faith with us by taking us through mini-performances and assemblies. Students were treated to a traditional school assembly which included singing both the Samoan and Australian national anthems; prayer and Old Testament stories; messages about social justice and human dignity... The performance was a show case of dynamic entertainment with vibrant dancing and song, which also carried wonderful messages of respect and values."



### Fr Chris Ford

*Fr Chris Ford SDB is the Principal of Don Bosco Technical Centre in Alafua, Samoa. The Centre offers "second chance" trades training programmes in welding, motor mechanics, carpentry and joinery, electrical and plumbing.*



The group's visit to Hobart was, according to Ms Beth Gilligan, Principal of Dominic College, a sacred moment in which deep connections were made:

*It was a memorable two days of Salesian family spirit as they joyfully connected with our students and wider community and shared their dancing and singing talents in a way that was just inspirational. Without doubt these young men captivated our hearts and left us with many blessings, including new insights into commitment, reverence, sacredness and masculinity. The boys' humility and gratitude for our Dominic hospitality was deeply touching... May they remember that their visit has deeply moved us closer to God through our shared Salesian spirit and family.*

Fr Chris Ford SDB, Principal of Don Bosco Technical Centre, expressed his gratitude to all who had supported the tour:

*Our tour was sponsored by the students and staff from all the Salesian schools in Australia. To them we offer our profound appreciation for their generosity and support. Our tour was an exchange of friendship and solidarity and our hearts are filled with gratitude for the enthusiastic welcome and generous response we received everywhere we went.*

*We also thank those schools, parishes and community groups that provided a warm welcome as well as food and accommodation. Likewise we thank the parishes that welcomed us with such enthusiasm and generosity. Similarly, we are grateful for the love and generosity of the Samoan communities in Australia and thank them for the help and assistance they provided for us.*

*The Salesian flame burned brightly throughout our tour and we have been blessed to have shared these special experiences with our Salesian brothers and sisters throughout Australia.*



# A future free of Exploitation for Cambodia's children



**I**n the poverty-ravaged neighbourhoods of Sihanoukville, Cambodia, living conditions are atrocious, drug and alcohol abuse rampant, and domestic abuse “normal.” Here, children are especially vulnerable: to hunger, illness, violence, and despair. And it gets worse. During the last decade alone, they have fallen prey to something even more horrifying: human trafficking.

Vulnerable children and young adults have been preyed upon by a dangerous, criminal element in the community, while heartless thugs have exploited them and forced them into prostitution.

These girls and boys (and often, their mothers) have become a tourist destination, used by wealthy international travelers who stream into the city’s seaport, the only one in all of Cambodia.

Impoverished women and children in Sihanoukville have little recourse, and slim chances to escape. As a result, travelers with no regard for their basic humanity or dignity use them for their own purposes, then discard them. These girls and boys should be in school, instead they’re sentenced to a lifetime of hardship and cruelty on the streets.

In response to this growing crisis, and the conditions that contribute to it, the Don Bosco Children Fund, a branch of the Don Bosco Foundation Cambodia, recently launched a new multifunctional centre for children in the city. The centre includes a kindergarten, nursery, day care centre, and shelter.

The need for such support was so obviously critical that, before construction was even complete, mothers lined up to enroll their children. Already, the kindergarten class has 15 children; 10 more are in the nursery and two live at the shelter full-time.

Most of these children were in bad shape when they arrived. According to Brother Roberto Panetto, coordinator of the centre, they all suffered some form of physical and or emotional neglect. Some had never been vaccinated and were ill; others lived on the streets with single mothers addicted to drugs or alcohol. One 10-year-old girl could not read, write, or count. Without meaningful intervention, all of these precious children would have been at high risk for exploitation.

“At the centre, these children have nutritious meals, baths, and clean clothes,” says Br Roberto. “They see a doctor when needed, they receive attention, can play in a safe environment and - most importantly - they are prepared for primary school.”

Once the children complete kindergarten, the Don Bosco Foundation, whose basic belief is “a child in school is a child out of the reach of human trafficking and labour exploitation”, offers educational continuity. In operation since 1992, it provides scholarships to children in need, and works to guarantee that children can attend primary and secondary school while having the necessary academic, social, and even nutritional support to succeed. Once a child completes 9th or 12th grade, he or she can apply for a two-year program at Don Bosco Technical School - with opportunities to specialize in hotel management, information technology, automotive mechanics, electrician training, and other job skills.

“Education is one of the most crucial factors in determining whether or not a child can escape the chains of poverty,” says Br Roberto. “This is why we hope to expand the centre, so that even more children have the opportunity for a dignified future.”



## **Brother Robert Panetto**

*Br Robert Panetto is the Coordinator of the new Multifunctional Centre and the Director of the Don Bosco Hotel School in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.*

## Philippines

# Don Bosco Centre of Studies respond to fire



**S**alesians, students, and lay mission partners of Don Bosco Centre of Studies (DBCS) in Parañaque City, Philippines, responded immediately to a fire alarm that broke out in a section of a community of former informal settlers less than 100 metres from their convent, and welcomed the victims into their campus.

“It was about 4 p.m. We were waiting for our meeting to start when someone called our attention that a fire was breaking out nearby,” said Joey Payas, head of the maintenance of DBCS. Mr Payas and his associate Glicerio Melloso were among the first to respond to the conflagration. Mr Melloso immediately took the firehose of the DBCS in an effort to contain the fire that was engulfing the house nearest the DBCS.

Residents of the affected community, more popularly known as Malacañang, fled to DBCS. The wall of the school compound was low enough for them to cross over. They were mostly women and children carrying bundles of clothes, home appliances such as TVs, washing machines, rice cookers, and LPG tanks. They took refuge inside DBCS. A volunteer teacher from the community was quick to gather the kids and bring them to safety in one of the huts on the campus. Some religious sisters who just finished their class in preparation for perpetual profession for the day also attended to them. A number of the kids were crying in fear. “My grandparents were left at home, my grandfather cannot walk,” said a girl of about six years of age in between sobs. Another girl, about 14 years old, attempted to go with a friend back to the site, worried about the whereabouts of her mother.

While waiting for the firefighters to arrive, armed with the in-house firehose and gardening hose, a group of confreres, lay mission partners and Fr Rafael dela Cruz SDB (DBCS Dean & President) tried to prevent

the blaze crossing over the low concrete wall. Another group of confreres with Fr Ramon Garcia SDB (Rector, Rinaldi Community) helped the victims salvage and secure their valuables. They also attempted to lead the fire-trucks inside the campus to better address the situation. The last fire brigade to arrive was that of the Philippine National Red Cross Headquarters from Mandaluyong - the only fire truck that entered DBCS which helped cool the concrete walls and floorings, and remnants of the fire.

Reports from the radio communications of the volunteer police force of Parañaque declared the fire over at around 5 p.m. Bilog Bautista of the Red Cross confirmed this fifteen minutes later. At 6:15 p.m. Meng Vargas from Barangay Don Bosco Riders’ Association who was among the responders to the conflagration confirmed that the situation was under control. Although it had affected at least 50 houses, no injuries or casualties were reported as of that moment.

The fire victims were welcomed in the homes of their neighbours who survived the ordeal. Four families who were living in the houses right at the wall of DBCS stayed overnight in the huts within the campus. Mr Romano, whose family is billeted in the campus, is thankful that they have survived the fire: “The fire may have reduced our house and things to ashes... we are still grateful for we are still alive,” and jokingly he added, “now we are living in a bigger home!” The Administrator of Barangay Don Bosco visited them. Franciscan Sisters from the nearby Immaculate Heart of Mary College brought them food. The Salesians shared their supper with them. The families, who are migrants from Surigao (a province in the north eastern tip of Mindanao, about 1000 km southeast of Manila), plan to rebuild their houses in the coming days.

The families are now under the care of the local government.

(ANS)

# Salesian World News



## India: Education and new hope for migrant youth

In the slums of Vadodara, India, children are a precious commodity. Sent out by their parents to beg for money, toil on brick farms, or even commit petty theft, they bring in desperately-needed cash to help support their families. But they pay a big price: significant loss of hours in school, where they could instead begin building the foundation for a brighter future.

Most of these children are from families of migrant workers, who have traveled to this third-largest city in the state of Gujarat from surrounding rural areas. In response, the Salesians have created a new program that promises to re-introduce these children to the classroom and support their success. The program is part of Don Bosco Snehalaya, which has been providing education, social development and child rights advocacy in Vadodara and beyond since 2001.

Ultimately, the Salesians envision the construction of a central educational centre. But first, they must work to calm fears and gain the trust of parents, to help them understand the importance of educating their children.

“Parents need counselling, as they are unwilling to send their children to schools,” says Karan Patel, a volunteer teacher with the project. “Some of the children are actually enrolled in municipal schools, but remain absent.” In fact, a survey of nearly 60 families in Nizampura, a large Vadodara slum, revealed that close to 30 children between the ages of 8 and 18 were not in school.

“Parents simply don’t see the value in education when the payoff for sending their children to work is immediate,” she adds.

To help overcome this barrier, the Salesians and volunteers travel directly to where the children live and offer classes in the presence of their parents. By doing so, families can experience first-hand the benefits and joy of learning – and begin to understand the long-term advantages in terms of their children’s financial independence and security. In addition to traditional schoolwork, educators offer training in chocolate-making, dental hygiene, computer science and other marketable skills. This will enable older students to quickly find employment after graduation.

## Italy: 481 Volunteers for National Community Service with the Salesians

On 12 September, 481 young people began National Community Service with the Salesians: 448 in Italy and 43 abroad (Spain, Bosnia, Palestine, Angola, Madagascar, Bolivia) – they are 481 reasons to hope for a world with a more beautiful face. As Pope Francis said to the young people at WYD in Krakow: “He [the Lord] wants your hands to continue to build the world today.”

The National Community Service (SCS/CNOS) was established in 2001 and since 2005 it operates only on a voluntary basis. It is a way of defending one’s country, a duty that is enshrined in Article 52 of the Italian Constitution. This defence does not refer only to the protection of the State, but also to the realization of the constitutional principles of social solidarity, of national and international cooperation and preservation of the environmental, historical, artistic and cultural heritage. One of the purposes of the National Community Service is to contribute to the civic, social and cultural education, and professional integration of young people.

Fr Giovanni D’Andrea SDB, President of SCS/CNOS, has written on the official website: “Through the National Community Service and with the style of Don Bosco, we want to contribute to building this world, to leave a mark as Pope Francis says, an imprint starting with the growth of each young volunteer. Our first end is the young person’s own human growth, his or her sense of being an active citizen who contributes with his or her commitment to the growth of the common good and in this way to serve the country.”

He also says: “My wish for these young people is that they become adult men and women who know how to take care of the people they meet in their service. In this way we contribute to making real the dream of Don Bosco to form ‘upright citizens and good Christians ... future inhabitants of heaven.’”

## The National Community Service

*SCS/CNOS is a non-profit organization led by the Salesians of Italy. In addition to continuing the work of Don Bosco for young people who are marginalized or at risk, it is also involved in coordinating the National Community Service in Italy and abroad. It runs projects that cover all the areas of intervention of the organization: social and educational services for minors and young people in oratories, youth centres, group homes and schools.*



### Paraguay: Cultivating a better future

**I**n rural communities around the world, workers seek to make a living to support their families but face many challenges including insufficient wages and low productivity. In order to begin addressing these issues on a local level, the Salesians in Paraguay have launched a new project to help reduce poverty among the rural populations they serve.

Because agriculture is the predominant industry in Paraguay – in fact, nearly 50 percent of the population participates in farming and forestry activities – the project focuses on improvements in that industry.

Described as “poverty reduction and sustainable improvement in the living conditions of producers and technical training of young people in the Caaguazú Department,” this new initiative is in direct response to a recent report by the International Labour Office. The report found that the agricultural sector suffers the highest incidence of workers’ rights violations, frequent accidents, work-related health problems and discrimination against workers.

“This means that rural areas of Paraguay lag behind in development,” says Father Mark Hyde SDB. “We therefore want to provide youth with new farming knowledge and skills so that they may build a good life for themselves, their families and their communities.”

The project is centred in Coronel Oviedo, a region in the east-central part of the country where Salesian missionaries have served since 1954. It provides young farmers with a basic education as well as access to advanced studies in modern farming practices and technologies. Not only do students participate in classroom studies, they also take part in hands-on agricultural and livestock training on a working farm at the Carlos Pfanni Salesian Institute located in town. Students explore new techniques in agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and animal husbandry – with an eye toward improving farming efficiency over the long-term.

Staff at the school hope the agricultural degree program will entice more youth to choose farming as their profession. In doing so, they will gain the advanced skills and knowledge they need to positively change the trajectory of their lives and improve their communities.



### India: Bringing medical care into the streets... and to street children

**T**hey are everywhere, so many of them, in fact, that society no longer sees them: the millions of girls and boys living on the streets of India. Alone, they struggle with deplorable conditions, the dangers of exploitation and abuse, and the sinking feeling that there may be nothing to eat that day, or the next. And when they are ill – which is often – they have nowhere to turn.

Access to health care, in general, is challenging in India. Socioeconomic status, gender, and geography all contribute to an inequitable system where a significant percentage of the population does not have adequate care. As a result, far too many people are dying of what should be preventable communicative diseases and malnutrition. And this is even more true for street kids.

In order to help address this challenge, Salesian missionaries in New Delhi have launched a new mobile health clinic. Each day, a doctor, nurse and social worker travel in a specially-equipped van to 11 different areas of the city where homeless children congregate. Once there, they offer free medical exams and treatment for those under the age of 18.

“So many of the children suffer from malnutrition, which leaves them vulnerable to disease and other conditions,” says Father Jose Mathew, provincial of the Salesian province in New Delhi. “This new service has quickly become a crucial part of our outreach as we strive to improve the prospects and futures of the street kids we are dedicated to helping.”

Each day, the health care team covers four rotating locations, with as many as 25 children showing up at each site. Most often, they treat malaria, traumatic injuries and infected wounds, upper respiratory issues, anemia, fever and abdominal pain. And, because despair often breeds substance abuse - a serious, and growing, problem throughout India - the team also provides alcohol, drug and tobacco counselling for those who need it.

# Vocation Invitation

From his early age, Don Bosco wanted to journey with young people and help them to be educated and become *good Christians and upright citizens*.

St John Bosco was born in 1815. After his ordination as a priest, he dedicated his entire life to the service of the young. In addition to being a Catholic priest, Don Bosco was an educator, entertainer, magician, a carpenter, a tailor, a musician, and much more...

Currently, there are nearly thirty thousand Salesian brothers, priests and sisters who are continuing the work of St John Bosco around the world.

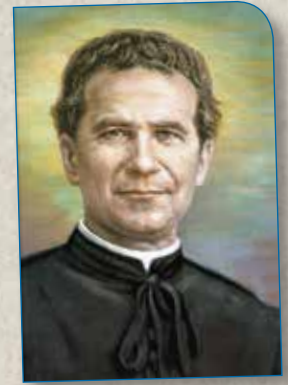
Don Bosco invites his followers to serve God in happiness.

Being a Salesian working with young people is a truly fulfilling experience.

You are invited to journey with us as a Salesian to continue the work of Don Bosco with the young, especially those in need.

Contact us now!

Fr William Matthews SDB  
Vocations Animator  
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**“Surrendering ourselves totally to God, we Salesians live and work together for youth.”**