



APOSTLES OF MERCY



As the year of Divine Mercy comes to a closure, let us keep deep in our hearts the message delivered by Pope Francis in his Homily on the Feast of Divine Mercy:

In God's mercy, all of our infirmities find healing. His mercy, in fact, does not keep a distance: it seeks to encounter all forms of poverty and to free the world of so many types of slavery. Mercy desires to reach the wounds of all, to heal them. Being apostles of mercy means touching and soothing the wounds that today afflict the bodies and souls of many of our brothers and sisters. Curing these wounds, we profess Jesus, we make Him present and alive; we allow others, who touch His mercy with their own hands, to recognize Him as: Lord and God: (Jn 20,28), as did the Apostle Thomas. This is the mission that He entrusts to us. So many people ask to be listened to and to be understood.

The Gospel of mercy, to be proclaimed and written in our daily lives, seeks people with patient and open hearts, "good Samaritans" who understand compassion and silence before the mystery of each brother and sister. The Gospel of mercy requires generous and joyful servants, people who love freely without expecting anything in return.



SIHANOUK VILLE, CAMBODIA



Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, 10th successor of Don Bosco visits Don Bosco Hotel Schools in Sihanoukville.

Fr. Angel's presence has reaffirmed the works of our faith in action through the care & development of the young in Cambodia. It was celebrated with festivities, visits to Don Bosco schools and capped by an assembly of Salesian confreres. Not only was this an example of Don Bosco's true efforts and achievements along with the active participation of the young, it has affirmed the generosity of the many benefactors who donated and sponsored our works in Cambodia.

Brother Roberto Panetto, SDB

DON BOSCO PREM NIVAS - Andhra Pradesh

Our boys and girls study among other subjects English, Mathematics and computing skills. For many, these three subjects are too hard. With our innovative and interactive programs, we try to help them master this difficult area and to clear their psychological and mental blocks. Many of our past students are progressing very well in their studies and are very grateful for the help they have received from the Don Bosco Mission Office. Dear Benefactors, thank you very much for all the help and support to our community

Fr. Guntaka Marianna, SDB

DON BOSCO CANADA HELPS THE DON BOSCO INTERNS – NGANGI



More than 320 youth and children, Interns of the Don Bosco Youth Center of Ngangi of Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, have benefited from the generosity of the Don Bosco Mission in Canada. The Salesian Mission of Canada, with big heart, has understood that the Don Bosco Salesian undertaking in Ngangi needs the support of numerous good wills on all fronts in order to perpetuate the Salesian charism. Because of its charitable act, God can accomplish wonders for the vulnerable youth who know no other world but that of the Don Bosco Ngangi Center. It is these young people from the BAKANJA, KIZITO, GAHINJA, MARGERITE house and the USHINDI orphanage which lodge babies who do not have the chance to enjoy the maternal warmth of their mothers.

The Don Bosco Mission has wished to make its presence felt in the purchase of food for these children who have received less in life but who have a right to a healthy diet like every other individual. Certainly it is no easy to feed them, but we must.

The daily intake of the young interns at Don Bosco Ngangi is approximately \$1,000 USD daily so that they may have acceptable meals for breakfast, lunch and supper.

The hardest to manage remains the USHINDI orphanage, Kizito and Gahinja house, for its multiple babies, children and young orphans, ex-soldier children and street children who need constant care. This entails a well-selected diet, a loving presence so as to maintain the healthy and psychological balance of these poor orphans.

The generous gesture of the Don Bosco Mission in Canada will remain etched in their memories for a long time. For all at Don Bosco Ngangi this gesture reveals the affection of benefactors towards them. They pray that God may, with His infinite blessings, shower all those benefactors so that on another fine day they think of them again.

Father Dominique Kubuya, SDB

NAVAJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN

Dear “Friends of Navajeevan”: We would like to express our deepest thanks for your kind donations. Your financial support helps us to continue in our mission and to assist those in our community. The generous support from you makes it possible for our organization to exist and to make the community a great place to live. May God bless you all with a long life and may all your dreams and wishes come true. The Navajeevan Family send their gratitude for all the Love, Care, Support and Concern that you have extended to the children in difficult situations, and the help you have given us by supporting us in our mission and our girls in their studies.”

Fr. S. Bala Showery, SDB

PRAYERS FOR FR. TOM UZHUNNALIL

You will have heard of the gruesome terror unleashed by gunmen on the Home for the destitute run by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Aden, Yemen, on March 4th, 2016. It left several people dead including four Missionaries of Charity sisters. In this tragedy our dear Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil



SDB, from the Salesian Province of Bangalore, has been missing. We are all saddened and deeply shocked. Kindly continue to pray for the safety and speedy release of Fr. Tom.

YOUR DONATIONS HELP TURN A LIFE AROUND IN MOZAMBIQUE

Days ago, I received a letter from MIEL TAMARIS. She lives in MOZAMBIQUE (Africa) where I was fortunate to have worked for a while. This young lady humbly thanks our benefactors for the help she is receiving through our Missions Office of Montreal.

She has finished her third year in HOTEL and TOURISM Industry at the SUPERIOR INSITUTE “DON BOSCO” (Maputo city). Soon she will graduate and become active in the work market, with a qualified job and financial autonomy. She shares the following with us: “*During any free time I take care of marginalized kids, youth and the elderly. The main problem I have is a lack of money for transportation to school. Even though I do my best for getting a good performance, my tiredness from my travel-walking distances diminishes my academic productivity.*”



I think that it is useful to describe briefly the life and story of this young lady. I intentionally do so because many times a benefactor can feel uncertain of the final

destination of funds donated. Rest assured that any donations submitted through our Missions Office will reach the right destination.

Miel Tamaris was 7 years old. Her father was widowed and had 6 more children at home. He sold her to a prostitution ring. Within this ring they prepared her for the market until she was 12. This girl, deprived from parental love and dignity, gave birth to a baby at the age of 14. She was repeatedly asked to have an abortion, but she refused and held on to her baby son. Trying to escape, she was repeatedly threatened with death. She began to participate at the little chapel "Beata Anuarite", that the Salesians have in an outskirt called "JARDIM". There, she met with Fr. Manuel Catonda, who suggested she attend the secondary school and invited her to apply to our Superior Institute "Don Bosco" and embark in studies for a career. Fr. Manuel asked me if I would be willing to help her. Our Canadian benefactors began to help her.

Miel says: *"I had difficulties sharing with my colleagues, mainly because I feared being rejected: I overcame the struggle and focused on my training objectives despite it all. Perseverance made me stronger and I learnt to live together and accept our differences. It was through this training that I realized the true meaning of "Educate by teaching", and it was very surprising for me to know that I possess abilities in solving problems linked to educational and cognitive development of students. This was an invaluable experience! I thank everyone who has made this possible for me."*

As I previously mentioned, MIEL is going to graduate very soon, this December 2016. She will then be able to face the life ahead of her, and raise her son. Most importantly, she now has dignity, worthiness and a happier future.

To all benefactors who trust in our commitment
THANK YOU! A GENEROUS HEART IS CAPABLE OF TURNING A MISERABLE LIFE INTO A BRIGHT FUTURE!

Father Tito Iannaccio, SDB

A TESTIMONY FROM CATERINA - MEXICO

I write to you with a great amount of joy from the Salesian community of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. I have had the opportunity of animating many projects in the three oratories that we have and am now blessed with the role of youth minister and project coordinator. The most recent project that I am coordinating and animating is in the Juvenile Detention Center, known as CERSAI. Since February, I have been part of the development process of pastoral work and intervention with the 270 sentenced young people between the ages of 15-25 years old. With only 4 hours a week of Salesian presence with the youth, we try our best to bring joy through games and animation as well as our love of Christ and spirit of Don Bosco. My main role, other than coordinating this project from the outside, is to get to know and accompany the youth that are serving their time. As the animation team intervenes with games and sports, I spend most of my time individually getting to know the situations and hardships of the youth. The future goal of this project is to create halfway houses in one of our oratories and have the youth complete the last few months of their sentence within our oratory, accompanied by the Salesian community. "Honest citizens and Good Christians," as Don Bosco would say. Although this is a maximum detention center and we can all imagine the kind of crimes these young people have committed, all I continue



to see are good young people who have not been cared for properly. In every single one of them, I have found good friends and the face of Jesus. I see the want to play, the need to be listened to, to be loved by someone and believed in. When I asked Juan, a 14 year old inmate, what he would want to tell the world if everyone would listen to what he had to say. He answered: "I would tell the world that I want to know more about this Don Bosco guy you talk so much about so that I can get other kids my age out of the drug life. I would show them that I'm not a bad kid even though I made big mistakes." Juan has at least 6 more years in CERSAI but says the first thing he wants to do when he is released is get to know the oratory. I share this testimony asking for one thing from anyone who is reading this.

I ask that you pray for every young person who is struggling with right and wrong, who is desperate, who is trying to find their purpose in this life. These

precious young souls are our oratory boys that Don Bosco spent his life fighting for and believing in. I have seen hurt, pain, the struggle to want to continue and find freedom and the best way I can accompany the youth in Ciudad Juarez is by reaching out and asking for your prayers. *Caterina Florio*

RIISING FROM THE RUBBLES, BANGALORE



Vijaykumar, son of Baburao and Esther, is from a very poor family at Sunknal in Bidar, North Karnataka. Vijay's father was an agricultural daily wage earner. In order to supplement their income they used to have a buffalo or a cow. Baburao has a

large family with 5 girls and 2 boys. The girls were married at a young age. Weak in studies, Vijay was more interested in helping his father to graze the cows and buffalos. So at the age of 11 he chose to drop out of school. Don Bosco fathers while visiting his village met him and befriended him. He agreed to come along with them to Don Bosco Child Labour Centre. After completing the bridge course, Vijay was main streamed into 7th grade at Siddhartha Primary school, Bidar. He often picked up quarrels with whoever crossed his path. These fights landed Vijay in real trouble. He was barred from writing the 9th grade examination. The rector of Don Bosco once again came to his rescue pleading with the school authorities to give him one more chance and they agreed. After this Vijay was brought back to Don Bosco, Bidar, where he continued his studies. His teachers encouraged him and tried to bring the best out of him. A change came over Vijay at Don Bosco. He showed interest in performing dances and also began to teach other boys. He had a great sense of rhythm and would beautifully play Hallige, a type of drum. He emerged to be so responsible that our Director could entrust to Vijay the running of the center whenever the warden was absent. Though the studies were tough, he put in a lot of hard work. In the SSLC exams (final exams at school), he passed with 60% marks. Today, Vijay has a dream! He has already enrolled himself at Don Bosco ITI, for the Electricians course. His aim is to work and earn for his family and take care of his parents. Speaking of his transformation he says: "I was a rowdy and a stubborn boy till 9th grade. But I realized that I had to change in order to be someone of worth. The atmosphere at Don Bosco was encouraging and motivating which played a crucial role in my life.

Fr. Antony Vaillatt SDB

PRAY FOR REPOSE OF ALL SOULS

Let us pray for all missionaries who have left us this year. The Salesian Province of Guwahati mourned the passing away of **Father Mario Porcu**. This is a letter for you: Dear Friends, it is with deep sentiments of sorrow that I wish to inform you our dear and valiant missionary, Rev.Fr.Mario Porcu is no longer with us. He has gone to his eternal reward on June 23rd,2016. He passed away at the age of 98.

A veteran Salesian missionary, Fr. Mario left his native Sardinian shores back in 1941 and spent 77 awesome years of his life here in India as an Indian citizen. He radiated a light that was to light up the lives of the poor and the needy. His life was exemplified in "Work and Prayer". His day began at 4:00 am with prayer and celebration of Eucharist, and after a meager breakfast he would sit for hours typing away on his 40 year old typewriter. Above all, Fr. Mario was always a totally committed priest living his priestly life fully. "He was a confessor par excellence". His spirit will forever remain an inspiration to all. For even at 98 years of age he was active doing whatever he could but above all being available for all.



Fr. Edward D'Souza has been requested to continue the works of Fr. Mario. Please accept Fr. Edward as one of your own and kindly assist him to take forward the task of spreading God's love among the poor, as good Fr. Mario did so wonderfully while here on earth.

Provincial House Don Bosco, Guwahati India

DON BOSCO MISSION OFFICE CALENDARS

Sadly, due to the increased costs related to producing our yearly calendar, we have decided to suspend its production. This enables us to contribute more of your generous donations to our missionaries. The 2016 calendar was the last one in circulation.



Father Luc P. Lantagne, SDB

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