



Donors say thank you...



Our hearts are overjoyed when we hear from donors who thank us for giving them an opportunity to express their faith and commitment to help underprivileged children.

We have been told, “charitable giving is a privilege and our Christian way of life.”

Another donor in support of the Salesian Vocational Fund wrote, “for us it is a great honour to give some help to fine young men who follow the call of Jesus to the Holy Priesthood. May they all be blessed in their vocation to serve Jesus and their fellow man. Please let me take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful efforts to spread God's Kingdom. This world has much need of rescue. Disciples like you give us encouragement and hope.”

An everlasting card recipient wrote: “We are overjoyed to receive your most lovely card. It is a beautiful, generous and BEST gift possible; a remembrance in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated forever in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome, built by St. John Bosco! The good works of the Salesians of Don Bosco is very dear to our hearts! You are a wonderful congregation and we appreciate all your prayers and work.”

In the words of Don Bosco, “the reward for Christian charity is the joy that one feels after having performed a good deed.”

Generosity goes a long way...

The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh Cambodia express their heartfelt gratitude to you our dear Canadian benefactors for your generosity in helping their mission in Cambodia. Thank you for contributing towards the need of their Computer Secretarial Centre.

Your donations helped purchase a photocopier and a laminator. This opportunity provided the girls in their care with practical experience before they go out for job training. In addition, they furnished the computer room with tables, computers, head sets and other accessories. They set up an internet corner and taught the girls in their care to log in to websites and do research studies in a safe environment.



The Salesian sisters in Cambodia write: “The Canadian donors are much in our thoughts. You are an expression of Christ’s love through all the help you have given us by supporting us in our mission and our girls in their studies.”

Salesian Volunteer's Testimony



Testimony of Jacob Janek, a volunteer in the Prague Salesian community. It must have been divine intervention that led me here on a cold October day in 2012. I was born and brought up in Canada, and raised by my parents in the Czech and Slovak cultures. As a family, we did everything together; we ate, talked, prayed, and attended church.

In October 2011, I decided to move to the Czech Republic alone and started attending university in Prague. I soon realized that continuing my studies in my chosen domain was not for me. With the help of my uncle, a Salesian Co-operator, I made contact with the Salesians in Prague. Father Jaroslav Travnicek, SDB was very enthusiastic and accepted that I become a volunteer and offer my services to their Salesian community. Starting February 2012, I was busy doing some of the most interesting assortment of jobs I have ever had the opportunity to try! My tasks included a mixture of office work and connecting Don Bosco worldwide. I worked with children of various ages at the Salesian Oratories administering recreational activities. The children always taught me something new. I also taught English as a second language at a local high school. As a result of these experiences, I was inspired to resume my university studies in teaching. Finally, an important part of being a Salesian volunteer and most rewarding for me was living in community with the Salesians; we ate and prayed together everyday. As a volunteer, I have received a lifetime of experiences and God's graces.

Working for the Young

(ANS – Ciudad Juarez) - Salesians are working in Ciudad Juarez, on Mexico's border with El Paso, Texas. Juarez is one of the most dangerous cities in the world. "In Riberas del Bravo there are no parks, shopping centers, sports fields, or public gardens." This report leaves no room for doubt. In Ciudad Juarez there is still a lot to be done: "There are too many dangerous areas. The people are discouraged. They fear the police because of their aggressive methods. Violence in families is rampant. There are no public spaces." So says Salesian Fr. Juan Carlos Quirarte Mendez, SDB. The local authorities have given him the task of studying some areas of the city which, for a long time now, have topped the list of the ten most dangerous places in the world.

For 21 years in Ciudad Juarez, four Salesians have been living, working and running three youth centres that are attended by a thousand young people. The activities are the traditional ones – sports, music, dance, and drama – but here they take on particular significance. "We work together with many other local organizations; this is our particular approach and it is our strong point," says Fr. Juan Carlos, who is convinced that on their own, the young people would be going nowhere, and, for this reason, it is important to collaborate also with the State, including the police force.



Public institutions must not go against the people. Fr. Juan Carlos says, "It is essential that the citizens recover faith in the institutions. This demands that they, in turn, do not act aggressively against the people and then abandon them to their own resources." The Salesian community is living and working always for the peaceful development of the people in Ciudad Juarez.

Salesian Volunteer's Blog

"I want my life to bear witness to the beauty of the broken."

A mission; this is what this year in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico is going to be about. This is not a humanitarian trip, this is not because I need time off from home or from my everyday life. This is because as my friend Vita so nicely expressed, Jesus whispered into my heart and asked me if I was courageous enough to go on a mission and serve Him for a whole year and I jumped right into it and said yes!

On August 12th, 2013 I started my mission, I have surrendered to God and prepared to give Him all that I have. Together with the other volunteers, I am in charge of "La Brigada de la Alegria."



This project requires us to reach out and gather as many kids as we can from around the neighborhood and get them to join us at the Oratory to play. During our time together we sing camp songs, play games and sports. Just like Don Bosco, we offer the children a mini catechism lesson about a value and relate it to a Salesian saint whenever possible and of course, we indulge in chocolate milk and cookies. The very first night we took care of "La Brigada de la Alegria" we had 70 kids joins us!

Retrieve updates on Caterina Florio Blog at <http://catflorio.blogspot.mx/>

Andravintsazo, Madagascar

Thanks to our Canadian donors' generous response to the 2010 Christmas Campaign, the building of the school, for the children of the bush village of Andravintsazo, Madagascar, has been successfully completed in three years later.

The children now have a brand new school, a sturdy structure built with cement, and the village has a shiny new chapel.

Moreover, thanks to your generous gifts, drinking water was finally found at the depth of 80 metres. The joy in the children's faces and the new hope shining in the eyes of their proud parents are not difficult to imagine.

The project was a complicated one. Ironically, water was needed to drill for water and since none was available in the village, it had to be brought in with large barrels. Then the truck carrying the water and the equipment broke down. By Divine Providence, an Italian mechanic happened to be in Madagascar and after many weeks, he finally succeeded in fixing the problem. The final and most distressing blow came with the passage of cyclone Haruna. It took many lives and there were thousands of disaster victims. The cyclone destroyed houses, churches, schools and hundreds of hectares of harvest. The Malagasy are very patient people and so they faced each trial with humility, but with the fervent knowledge and hope that God was on their side.

The children of Andravintsazo and their parents would like to join the Don Bosco Mission Office in thanking you, the benefactors, for making their lives more bearable, for the gift of clean water, health and education for their youth and for your solidarity and brotherhood.



God is good!



Deacon Jacek Garus, SDB writes about his summer camp experience in New Matadi in, Monrovia the capital city of Liberia. In the month of July 2013, I saw so many smiling faces, especially on the faces of children. The saying "if you give one smile, you will get one back" works very well here. The children were happy because they were busy doing so many things during the summer camp organized by Fr. Mathew Uddoka sdb, the Salesians and the animators actively working at the Don Bosco Youth Center in New Matadi.

For the whole month of July from Monday to Friday we welcomed approximately 250 children every day, ranging from 7 to 16 years old. The day started at 8:30 am with a time of prayer and songs. From 8:45 am until 11:30 am was time to study; English reading and spelling as well as science and math. Before lunch break was an hour and a half of workshop time. Every week the workshop focused on a different area of human life: education, faith, ecology, social problems. One way to engage children in thinking about these issues was through singing songs: each week there was a different song relating to a specific problem. After the busy morning studying and reflecting they benefit from an hour break during which each one received a plate of rice with sauce made from potato greens (young leaves of sweet potato) and a piece of fish or meat. At 2 pm it was time for skill development. Children divided themselves into small groups according to their interests. We offered dancing, singing, drawing, and crocheting or different sporting activities such as football, volleyball, basketball and kickball. After two hours of skills development, we offered

recreational time and more games. We gathered around the football ground or basketball court and played different types of games. A few would actual play while the rest were bystanders cheering the teams. It was a time of real madness and camaraderie; the young people were inventing new songs and chants. Finally, we ended the day at 5.30 pm with a final prayer.

Although our summer camp activities appear to be no different than anywhere in the world, in Liberia one has to remember that the light we get for the activities is always from a generator, that is not always used in order minimize our costs. During morning classes we always used the chalk board and on occasion a computer or projector. Driving at nighttime in the city of Monrovia is shocking and daunting; the darkness is overwhelming. To add to our adversity, we all had to share one tap for drinkable water that came from one working well.

I was pleasantly surprised that children did not complain on the lack of resources. On the contrary, singing, sharing stories and playing outdoor games satisfied them and worked exceptionally well.

We also enjoyed special times to worship God, in the best way he gave us celebrating the Eucharist in the middle of the campground. All the children and the educators attended the Mass and the homily would always start with the greeting of the priest: "God is good" in which we would all respond "all the time!" Seeing so many happy faces, young people fully involved in different activities, spending time in the atmosphere of joy and happiness I learned that this saying is really true. These are not just words. God is good, all the time! Amen.

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