



# SALESIAN SPOTLIGHT

E-NEWS MAY 2024

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR 34 YEARS

*Dear Friends* forgive the delay in sending out this newsletter for the month of May. Our Lady's month and the month of the Holy Rosary. Our Blessed Lady is very dear to my heart, and she has been knocking on my door for a while now telling me to send out her news. I even had a call from the other side of the world asking me why I had not sent out the Spotlight during this important month. My excuse will be for another time and another place. I must thank our donors and friends (those known and the anonymous kind ones), once again, for your constant loyalty, prayers, donations and dedication. Please dear friends, say your rosary this month especially for a favourable outcome for the elections on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We also need prayers for those who have gone before us, and for all those who are suffering in any way and have asked for our prayers. May God bless and reward you one and all. Pray for me too please, as I do for you. Much love. Denise

## 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY OUR LADY OF FATIMA AND ST MARIA DOMENICA MAZZARELLO

Our Lady of Fatima is the title of Mary, mother of Jesus, based on the Marian apparitions reported in 1917 by three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria in Fátima, Portugal. The three children were Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Our Lady of Fatima has served as a beloved Marian devotion of protection and hope for those suffering, offering comfort through times of uncertainty. As we observe this Feast we can find peace in reflecting upon the Guidance of Our Blessed Mother.



**Mary** was born in Mornese, a small, hidden town in Northern Italy. Her family was poor and simple, but rich in faith-life and work ethic. Maria Domenica Mazzarello, FMA was an Italian Catholic nun who co-founded the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. Mary was elected as the first Superior General of the Congregation, but she called herself the



Vicar, because, she said, "the true superior is Our Lady."

## 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

(Latin: *Mater Ecclesiae*) is the title given to Mary, as officially declared by Pope Paul VI in 1964. The title first appeared in the 4th century writings of Saint Ambrose of Milan, as rediscovered by Hugo Rahner. It was also used by Pope Benedict XIV in 1748 and then by Pope Leo XIII in 1885. Pope John Paul II placed it in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Pope Francis inserted a feast by this title into the Roman Calendar. The Mosaic of *Mater Ecclesiae* in St. Peter's Square bears the personal arms and motto of Pope John Paul II, who approved the installation of the image and blessed it personally.



## 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS



has attained special renown since St John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Congregation, dedicated his foundation to *Our Lady, Help of Christians*, the mother church of his congregation at Turin on 9 June 1868. The Salesians have carried the devotion to their numerous establishments. It was established due to the great appreciation of Don Bosco for this Marian title and the development of the Salesian works in many countries since the second half of the 19th century. Saint John Chrysostom was the first person to use this Marian title in year 345 AD. It is also associated with the defence of Christian Europe (Latin and Greek), the north of Africa and the Middle East from non-Christian peoples during the Middle Ages. During the expansion of the Islamic Ottoman Empire who intended to invade Christian Europe in 1571, Pope Pius V invoked Christian armies and the victory achieved was consequently attributed to the intercession of Mary under this devotional title.

## 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY THE VISITATION OF OUR LADY

This feast was established by Pope Urban VI in 1389 in order to bring the Great Schism to an end through the intercession of Mary. It originated in Byzantium when, on 2 July, the Gospel of Mary's visit to Elizabeth was read on the Feast of the "Deposition in the Basilica of the Holy Garment of the Theotokos". The Franciscans adopted this Marian feast day in 1263, calling it the Visitation of Mary. After the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council, the feast was fixed at the end of the month dedicated to Mary.

*Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk. 1:39-42)* Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus.

Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND THE PROJECTS

The 1 April 2024, was the 90th anniversary of the canonization of Don Bosco, done by Pope Pius XI on 1 April 1934, on Easter day itself. It was celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> in order to unite Don Bosco with the glory of the Risen Christ, at the conclusion of the Holy Year of the Redemption, which was called by the same Pope Pius XI to celebrate the 1900 years of the Redemption, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



**LANSDOWNE, CAPE TOWN  
CONTINUE WITH THEIR  
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.  
1924 - 2024**



**DON BOSCO EDUCATIONAL CENTRE -  
BRICKLAYING**

**ESWATINI – MANZINI YOUTH CARE  
AND  
MALKERNS WITH THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF  
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**





**MAPUTSOE - LESOTHO**



**BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE IN JOHANNESBURG - RECTORS AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING**



**SALESIAN INSTITUTE – CAPE TOWN**

**Learn to Live School of Skills  
Hosts Vibrant Mardi Gras  
Concert for Local  
Neighbourhood Old Age Home  
Residents**



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

**SALESIAN MISSIONS SUPPORTS ALL OF THESE PROJECTS ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF EVANGELISATION. IN ORDER TO EVANGELISE CHILDREN, THEY NEED TO BE FED, CLOTHED, LOVED AND DISCIPLINED. BY GIVING HOPE, WE REBUILD LIVES**

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