

# EX ALLIEVI Newsflash

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



**English Edition**

(translations: Sandra Pistilli)



## 150 years of History



## FROM VALDOCCO TO THE WHOLE WORLD...

*Today the invitation is made to everyone: Come! Get to know Valdocco. Browse around. Experience this place. Be still and listen to what the "walls are saying" because "at Valdocco, everything speaks"... What has taken place in transforming this space is much more than the mere remodeling of walls and rooms. A dream has come to life.*

It all began more than 160 years ago when a small band of young men and boys who loved their educator, Don Bosco, made the commitment to give life to a 'Society' - the "Pious Society of Saint Francis de Sales". Out of this first small group grew a new Religious Order, today called the "Salesians of Don Bosco".

Prior to the gathering of that small band, Don Bosco had arrived at the "Pinardi" property and shed. He rented its two pieces of land to begin the first permanent Salesian Oratory. It was here, in this humble and simple place, that his precious work began. In this, he followed the example of Our Lord who was born in a stable, in the greatest poverty, and with the sole protection of the loving arms of his Mother, Mary of Nazareth, and of her humble spouse, St. Joseph.

Today as Yesterday.

In just a few days, October 2-4, 2020, we will celebrate with the public the realization of a "*dream*", a beautiful dream, of making the Pinardi property a place that "*speaks*".

What has taken place in transforming this space is much more than the mere remodeling of walls and rooms. A dream has come to life: The dream of turning the site of the first Salesian Oratory, Valdocco, into a space, a place, and a playground that speak of the Salesian charism. Here is the place - the Pinardi House - where those first orphans who knocked on the door of Mamma Margaret's kitchen were welcomed and where the Salesian Congregation was born. It is a place rich in our charism and brimming with life.





Today the invitation is made to everyone: Come! Get to know Valdocco. Browse around. Experience this place. Be still and listen to what the "walls are saying" because "at Valdocco, everything speaks".

Come to this house where hundreds of young men and boys and dozens of Salesians lived alongside Don Bosco and became a true family in a home that was a "school of sanctity".

Get to know this place that has continued welcoming hundreds and hundreds of young people, changing their lives by the life experienced here, helping them become "good Christians and upright citizens".

Browse around this space that saw, just like the little seed that is spoken of in the Gospel, the first sprout of what would become a lush, green, and healthy tree that today spreads its branches over the entire world: Don Bosco's Salesian Family.

Experience this home which witnessed how a young priest full of evangelizing and educational passion inspired that band of his own boys with enthusiasm and zeal to continue his dream: the first Salesians. It is they who gave continuity to the Congregation, they who succeeded Don Bosco, and they who made his missionary dream come true, first in Patagonia, then in much of the Americas, and today in 134 nations.

Be still and listen in this house and this courtyard (once Mamma Margarita's garden). Here there was life and joy, mingled with difficulties and hunger, where everyone desired to become a saint. From these few square yards of land, there have come 13 who have been declared Vene-



rable, Blessed or Saint. They grew up here, allowing the Spirit to sow in them the seed of 'sanctity lived in Valdocco'. Our Beloved Don Bosco was a master in the art of proposing lofty and beautiful ideals to his boys.

Here - on this Pinardi property - Don Bosco, Mamma Margaret, Dominic Savio, Michael Rua, Philip Rinaldi, Luigi Variara, and Leonard Murialdo lived, walked, worked, prayed, and played, to name but a mere few. Numerous others walked these grounds – so numerous that this house and courtyard had to be expanded. Larger churches were necessary because the boys soon numbered 500. They quickly outgrew the smaller churches: the tiny Pinardi Shed Chapel and the Church of Saint Francis de Sales. On this land they walked a path of sanctity. At the end of this path we stand in the shadow of the beautiful Basilica of Mary Help of Christians under the protection of Our Heavenly Mother who covers all of Valdocco with her mantle.

This house that we present to everyone today to be visited and known is and will be a very meaningful experience for everyone:

- \* from tourists who do not know anything about the Salesian world. These will realize that something great arose from nothing in this place, even if they should gain but a superficial understanding,
- \* to those who know, love, live, and have our charism in their hearts. These will touch with their hands, see with their eyes, and know in their hearts how God brought forth from within these walls something very beautiful for the young people of the world.

Today, these walls wherein the Salesian charism was born and matured, and from which it spread into the whole world, have been cared for and preserved so as to remain a place of universal heritage throughout time.

From this house, these churches, and this playground Don Bosco will continue to reach the whole world. From all over the world people will come to Valdocco to meet the Lord who has done great things, together with Our Mother, Mary Help of Christians, because "it is *She* who has done everything" and who continues "to do everything" - in union with Don Bosco, Mamma Margherita, and so many others. The spirit of Valdocco is still very much alive!

We offer you far more than just beautiful walls.

We offer you far more than just a museum.

We offer you far more than just works of art.

We offer you far more than just historical memories.

We intend to offer you pleasant friendship, encounters, and visits that will touch your heart and your life as you gaze upon these places sanctified by those who walked them.

From Valdocco to the whole world

*Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB  
Rettor Maggiore*



## AN EXAMPLE FULL OF EXAMPLES



Dear Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco

It is again the blessed time of the new volume of the **EX ALLIEVI Newsflash**. This online magazine is growing in volume and the quality constantly for already a few years. I am happy and thankful for this. At the same time, I see a parallel with our association where I can see qualitative and quantitative growth during the recent few years. **EX ALLIEVI Newsflash** is *an example full of examples* of how this growth is done. Many inspirational stories and projects have been discovered and shared from all around the world. Every new issue is bringing new surprises and motivation.

Especially during this challenging times of the pandemic crisis we can realize that this form of communication has a huge advantage and helps us stay connected and alive. Since we have had to cut many and many more personal meetings, celebrations, and projects, we have discovered the new potential in us Past Pupils and in our association. No virus and no challenge can make us stop being *Good Christians and Honest citizens*.

Along with living our spirituality of *Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco* in our everyday lives, we can discover new challenges and vocations on how to give out our testimony and become salt of the earth and light of the world. I invite you to get inspired and be an inspiration through this precious communication channel we have in **EX ALLIEVI Newsflash**.

At the same time, I encourage you to withstand in your work and activities and at the same time to open your eyes, ears, and hearths to new options sharing our joy and love with others. I invite you to read through this very new volume of *Newsflash* and to look inspiration for you and contemplate what activities and ideas correspond the most with our actual worldwide strategic plan.

One of the best news from the last volume of **EX ALLIEVI Newsflash** for me personally is the appointment of the new world delegate for Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco by Rector Major. The new delegate is a coadjutor from Vietnam and his name is *brother Dominic Nguyen Duc Nam SDB*. He is going to serve as a delegate for Salesian Cooperators at the same time as well. Let us pray for him and his challenging vocation. May Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians will help him and take care of him. Wellcome br. Dominic!

The needs of today's world, problems, and challenges we face today are huge and sometimes overwhelming. I am sure that the potential we have as a group of Past Pupils and which has each one of us is much bigger. Let us search for that potential together also on the following pages.

In Don Bosco.

Michal Hort  
President



## «DON'T BE AFRAID. Do as Don Bosco Did!»

Dearest Friends,

the fundamental problem, also in relation to the health crisis we are in, is to acquire different mentalities and behaviors. To be able to be people ready to see their own lifestyle habits changed. The true identity will be to live our profound differences. I hope it doesn't sound antithetical, but I am among those who esteem the most the "*courage of going back to retrace the path taken in order to evaluate the many positive moments of it*" when that represents the only way to go forward.

I remember the courage that brought Don Bosco "to dream" a future for his youngster, the poorest, the most abandoned by society. The same courage to which Pope Francis invited the Salesian Family during his visit in Turin (June the 21st 2015): «*Look at the streets, look at the boys and make risky decisions. Don't be afraid. Do as Don Bosco did!*».

The development of new technologies not only has accelerated the times of communication, but has ended up upsetting the rhythms of existence. But how much Good has come anyway in this corona virus period: global news in real time, school lessons held through video; on a spiritual level then, liturgical celebrations "filmed from remote"; and even more, family and friends daily gathered to pray and entrust their intentions to the connection via computer.

And Good triumphs! The true goodness is effusive: it is not a centripetal force it's a centrifugal energy. One of its most characteristic display must be, and it is, the gratitude to those who do us good.

The happy Latin sense of "*rejoicing, happiness, joy*" leads us to the highlighting of the special moment we are celebrating.

All years are important, but this one is particularly special because to remember and celebrate [the 150 years of us Past Pupils of Don Bosco, a Jubilee has been proclaimed \(from June the 24th 2020 to the same date of 2021\)](#).

I wish you all to live this Jubilee Year with a spirit of renewal following the teachings of Don Bosco.

Pierluigi Lazzarini

Dutiful note. Numerous Salesians and Alumni have reported me that our website ([www.exallievi.org](http://www.exallievi.org)) has stopped at the publication of *Newsflash of Easter 2020*. Apologizing for the inconvenience, I point out that the task, in Bratislava, engages the Presidency of the World Confederation. Waiting for the problem to be resolved, I invite all those who wish to receive the "*historical issue*" (June the 24th 2020, in any language) to send the request to Newsflash's e-mails. (PLL)

## FEAST DAY OF THE RECTOR MAJOR, celebrating Don Bosco's name day



Rome, Italy - June 24, 2020

The name day of Saint John Bosco occurs on June 24. Yesterday, continuing an ongoing tradition of 150 years, the Salesian Community thanked the Rector Major, the Successor of Don Bosco, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime.

For Salesians at the Generalate, the Central Office, 24 June is also the day on which significant anniversaries of priestly ordination or religious profession are celebrated.

Thus, this year, because of the 150th anniversary of the gift of Carlo Gastini and the first Past Pupils to Don Bosco, a set of coffee cups was also delivered to the Rector Major.

## AFTER 150 YEARS, THE GIFT OF THE PAST PUPILS is renewed... to today's "Don Bosco"



(ANS - Rome)

Just as Carlo Gastini, expressing the sentiment of all the Past Pupils of the Don Bosco Oratory, donated coffee cups to the Saint of Youth on June 24, 1870, so too yesterday, [June 24, 2020, on the 150th anniversary of that tribute](#), representatives of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco gave Fr Ángel Fernández Artime a set of coffee cups, accompanied by words of sincere gratitude.

The symbolic rite took place at the end of the Eucharist presided over by the Rector Major in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In the choir of the church,

[Vito Gentili, Salesian Past Pupil](#) and collaborator in many initiatives carried out at

the "Sacred Heart" of Rome - which houses the Salesian Generalate - said on behalf of all the Past Pupils of the world:

*«The figure of Don Bosco is fascinating and we see you [Fr Artime] as his Successor. We feel your closeness and encouragement towards us.*

*Thank you for the many initiatives to strengthen the Salesian Family, for your dynamism, action, prayer and testimony».*

*«Enjoy this feast day! We assure you of our collaboration, our prayers, and all our affection!»* he concluded.

Subsequently, Biagio Narciso, a lawyer from Caserta, who recently joined the World Council of the Confederation of the

Past Pupils as a representative of the Young Past Pupils (GEX) of Europe, gave the tribute to Don Bosco's Successor.

A tribute which, in the best Salesian tradition, is not an end in itself, but has a solidarity value. In fact, the cups were accompanied by coffee from the "[DI BOSCO - the Coffee of Past Pupils](#)" project.

«A project» - they reminded everyone - «that is not only based on the quality of the coffee produced, but also on the quality of the people who produce it and with whom we collaborate.

The "Gastini blend" comes from the collaboration of Past Pupil entrepreneurs from Europe and Asia, thus creating a global





project».

In fact, the sale of coffee and cups produced for the anniversary, in a limited edition of 150 copies, will serve to support the educational and social projects of the Past Pupils in America, Africa and Asia.

For his part, the Rector Major also replied with phrases coming directly from his heart as Father and Center of Unity of the Salesian Family:

*«Thanks to all the Past Pupils of the world! Looking at you, you make us think of all the good that is being done in the Salesian presence in the world.»*

*Because we know that for many boys and girls, to come to a Salesian house at the*



*hands of Mary means to change one's life». And finally, he concluded: «When I think of the Past Pupils I immediately think of the millions of boys and girls that we have in all our presences, and I say to myself: we must give them the best of ourselves, because one day they will be Past Pupils and Past Pupils like those we have today.»*

*Let's move on, go forward, always in communion with Don Bosco!».*

The closeness, affection and mutual gratitude between the Salesians and those who received an education according to the Preventive System are alive and tangible, today as they were 150 years ago.

Gian Francesco Romano

Slovakia



## SOLIDARITY OF PAST PUPILS through "DiBosco Coffee" project



(ANS - Bratislava)

Peter Kováč, a Salesian Past Pupil, is the co-founder of the "DiBosco Coffee" project, an initiative developed in the Thai city of Chiang Mai, with the aim of creating a network - within the Past Pupils association - between producers and consumers.

### How did this idea come about?

«The idea was born in 2015, after the General Assembly of Past Pupils which was held in Rome. A friend who had taken part in the Assembly brought me samples of roasted coffee, which came from Thailand.

*At that time I had a small local coffee roaster and the idea of buying the coffee immediately came to me.*

*So I contacted the Past Pupils in Chiang Mai and we started building this dream step by step».*

### How was your first trip to Thailand?

*«I spent a week visiting the DiBosco team's farms, coffee shops and coffee roaster, guided by Mr. Paisan.*

*I was amazed by the big heart of the Thais, always so smiling. At first, I thought it was going to be me offering them something, but in the end, it was they who showed me*



*their way of working and living, offering me friendship and collaboration».*

#### **How is "DiBosco Coffee" growing and what connections are there with other countries?**

*«This is the most "adventurous" part! Creating a network with other countries is a long-term and challenging process, but we are finding many people interested and great coffee wherever we go.*

*We currently work with producers in Africa, Central and South America and Asia. So far we cooperate with countries like Co-*

*lombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Haiti, USA, Thailand, Philippines, East Timor, Brazil, Kenya, Congo, Slovakia, Hungary, UK, Ireland, Malta, Poland and the Czech Republic. Slowly we are trying to expand our network on both sides: producers and customers/partners.*

*It should be emphasized that ours is fair trade, that is to say that we know from whom we buy coffee, what the conditions under which the coffee is grown are, and that there is always an ethical approach».*

#### **What are the dreams and future prospects of "DiBosco Coffee"?**

*«As mentioned, our objectives are long-term. We want to be able to enter new markets in America and Africa and we aim to open 1000 coffee shops in the next 10 years.*

*With a network of this type, we will be able to develop the potential for international cooperation between the Past Pupils and, at the same time, we will be able to spread the knowledge of Don Bosco, the Salesians and the Past Pupils.*

*With our coffee, we would like to encourage and bring some energy and joy to dreamers like us».*

## Papua New Guinea



## GRATITUDE AT THE CENTRE: 150th Anniversary of Past Pupils



Port Moresby - Papua New Guinea, 24 June 2020

Thank you for those who represented us all and turned up for the Mass on 24 2020, at 5:30pm for the Rosary followed by Mass. In this **Past Pupils 150 Years celebration**, we must continue our activities of organizing ourselves and strive to make sure we engage more **Past Pupils** as we can and fruitfully ensure that our involvement and commitment to our group gives justice to the common goal we have and that is to be true to our groups Visions and what it stands for especially through the teachings and conviction from our Alma Mater.

Even though the Notice yesterday was short, it was amazing to see a lot of you turn up. I sincerely thank everyone who came by. In a special way we also thank Fr. Alex, Fr Ariel Macatangay, Fr Ambrose Pereira and Fr Gilbert Engokia for their support and presence as well as the assistance from Mr Moris Godfrey. Our participation and reunion with the

Group must start from our hearts. It must be the conviction that each one of us have in Our integral part of being a Bosconian and the Good Values we hold dear to our hearts and try to establish in our way of life. It is through that conviction that we can use as basis of our involvement in this beautiful Group.

Many of us are outside Port Moresby and PNG and showing a lot of support and we are grateful, once we start our activities and fundraising and accomplish some of our tasks, we will still update you all and share with you all the goodness that comes with it.

The group is diverse and we continue to grow in numbers and its overwhelming to realize the force we can become if all put our minds together in achieving a goal and I personally believe we can do any good we want, especially helping our young students, the institution, the community and our own Families and friends. I must admit that life is tough and most of





you are working and residing around the towns, villages, suburbs and places where you do not have constant and regular experiences of similar activities, gatherings and opportunities like what we usually encounter here in DBTI.

nians do what we are good at and not be bystanders, puppets of corrupt regimes, followers but be the initiators and be servant leaders and show true stewardship of our welfare in society and instill good values in the things we do.



What we can be proud of is the Matter of fact that we all know that we are born for greater things and Don Bosco really wants us to be in the Communities to effect change, whether it be our immediate family, our colleagues, our neighbors, our community or contribution to the different sectors in our Society.

Be youthful, enthusiastic and enjoy the Little life that we have and show the world how beautiful Life can be. Me gat bilip lo wanwan yumi stap lo hia, yumi wok bung, helpim yumi yet na wanem hap u stap, wok hard na soim gutpla pasin na shine lo wanem hap u stap lo em. Taktok yumi taktok but life m sot so yumi ol Bosconians mas organize na wok na soim trupla pasin. I wish you all well in your Life, your Job, your Family and we also pay respects to those you had gone and we pray for those who are sick, in trouble and facing hardships at this time. Be steadfast and strive. Bikman bai blessing yupla olgeta wanwan. Me bilip olsem wanpla gutpla day bai yumi holim gut displa kantri na soim trupla na gutpla way blo wokim samting.



Whatever it is be vigilant and be upright in all of our encounters and do know that we all are bounded by the grace of God and the spirituality of our Father and Teacher of youth Saint John Bosco. Our country seems to be going downhill and bulk of the Population discriminates, becoming anti-nationalist and spread a lot of hatred and pin point persons who are in positions responsible. It is time we Bosco-

Leslie Mou Brown

## Argentina



## EDUCATION RECEIVED MUST BECOME A FORCE that fosters impact of Past Pupils in the world

(ANS - Buenos Aires)

We who run, jump, sing and play in their courtyards; we who dream like Don Bosco in favor of young people; we who want to make an oratory in every place we visit.

All of us together are invited to celebrate *Don Bosco's Past Pupils' Day*. Fr Ángel Fernandez Arttime invites us: «The education received... must become a force that stimulates the incidence of the Past Pupil in the world, to transform it and make it more humane».

As 150 years ago, Don Bosco continues to insist on all those who consider themselves "Past Pupils": «*One thing more than any other I recommend you, my dear children, and this is: wherever you are, always show yourself good Christians and honest men. Many of you already have families. Well, share that education you received in the Oratory from Don Bosco with your loved ones*» (M.B., 14, 511).

Carlo Gastini was the engine of the traditional Past Pupil's Feast Day, every June

24th. Don Bosco had said to him: «*You, Gastini, will be the jester of the Salesians up to seventy years*», and he reminded him continually.

His love and loyalty to the Salesian work lasted until the last day of his life.

According to the chronicles, Gastini - together with the other "old men from the oratory" - transformed the feast day of Don Bosco into a tradition still alive today.

The celebration consisted of declamations and songs, testimonies and anecdotes in honor of Don Bosco, as well as a meal or a toast with a moment of prayer.

The goal was to give thanks for the life and dedication of "dad Giovanni" (Bosco).

As Gastini once said: «*We are all from Don Bosco. Nothing is ours here, everything is his*» (MB XIII, 133).

When we meet, we feel that electric current that makes us tune in immediately to manage the same codes.

Each of the Past Pupils has personal expe-

riences full of memories and events, with faces of Salesians, of companions and of significant educators, with events and anecdotes concerning the oratorian companions and friends.

There is a common background theme: the meeting in the Salesian courtyard has transformed each one's life. «*We love the educational experience we have lived and we would like many others to live it too: we have brought our children, our friends, wives and husbands to know those places that have been so significant in our life path. It's our way of showing affection and gratitude*».

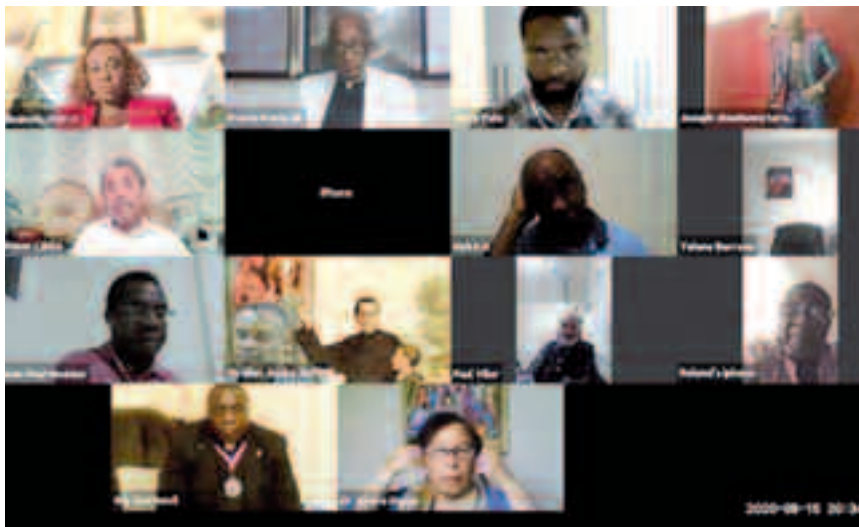
We are no longer in a Salesian house, but we always remain with Don Bosco, because he has remained in us forever.

The Rector Major, Fr Á.F. Arttime, invites all the Past Pupils to «*be "good Christians and upright citizens"; to promote human dignity and the identity of the family; to practice solidarity within and outside the Association, especially in favor of the most disadvantaged young people*».



Haiti

## CELEBRATION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY of Don Bosco's Past Pupils



Port-au-Prince, Haiti - August 2020

Past pupils of the National School of Arts and Crafts, founded in Port-au-Prince in 1936, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco and the 205th anniversary of the birth of Don Bosco.

The event took place on 15 August live on the Zoom and Facebook platforms with various participants from Brazil, Canada, France and the United States, in the presence of a good number of Salesians and the [President of the Pupils of Don Bosco \(ADB\) of Haiti, Jean-Yves Alfred](#).

Fr Jean-Paul Mésidor, SDB, Superior of the Vice Province of Haiti (HAI), spoke about the Rector Major's 2020 Strenna and invited participants to be good Christians and upright citizens.

Brazil



## LIVE CONCERT ON YOUTUBE for Past Pupils' 150th anniversary



crianças

### Recife, Brazil - June 2020

The 150th anniversary of the Don Bosco Past Pupils was celebrated by the Salesian Province of Brazil-Recife (BRE) with a live music event of solidarity with Fr João Carlos Ribeiro, SDB, and Band.

During the two-hour performance, broadcast on YouTube, the Salesian singer entertained the families in social isolation with music, prayer and invitations to solidarity.

The initiative is part of the Salesian Solidarity Action that the BRE Province has conducted since the beginning of the pandemic, helping thousands of families in situations of social vulnerability.

Then followed the video greetings of singers and prominent figures, in particular of the past pupils, represented by the Vice-President of the Confederation, Eduardo Cavalcanti.



Father João Carlos Ribeiro SDB

The celebration of the 150th anniversary culminated in the words of Fr Nivaldo Pessinatti, BRE Provincial, and with the consecration of the families to Mary Help of Christians. The live stream achieved over 100,000 views.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLTI-PZKpYs>.

Father João Carlos Ribeiro is a priest of the Salesian Congregation, singer and composer with 12 CDs by Paulinas COMEP and SDM LIVRE. From Pernambuco, Palmares, he is vice-provincial of the Salesian Inspectorate of the Northeast. He founded and coordinates the Missionary Association of Dawn, AMA, which brings together people interested in evangelization in the media.

It presents radio and television programs in the religious sphere. With his wagon-park, he is known for his shows and music, inspired by biblical and religious themes.





## Hong Kong

# TWO IN ONE: DELEGATE FOR THE SALESIAN COOPERATORS and Past Pupils of Don Bosco

Hong Kong - Manila - Ho Chi Minh City - Rome, Sunday, 15 June

A 90 minute sharing has taken place among the EAD leadership of the two largest lay groups of the Salesian Family.

It involved Mr Philip Yu (ASC World Councillor for the EAD Region), Fr Joseph Nguyen Think Phuoc (EAD SDB Regional Councillor), Br. Dominic Nam (World Delegate for the Don Bosco Past Pupils and Salesian Cooperators) and moderator Fr Vaclav.

In order to help the recently appointed World Delegate for both groups (ASC and DB Alumni), the former and present SDB regional councillor with Br. Nam were listening to the situation and needs of both largest lay groups of the Salesian Family. Lively sharing developed around three main themes:

- \* AD regional strategies for the animation of each group (about 'rejuvenation' of the membership through more direct involvement in the Youth Ministry - SYM)
- \* Formation of the respective SDB delega-

tes for each group at the province and local level, e.g. Resource manual for the ASC delegate on the Boscolink.

- \* Fruitful celebration of the 150th birthday of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco (24 June 2020) with their Prayer-Promise already translated into 12 EAD languages and a

*him, the youth were having an activity. We all exclaimed: "ugh, Salesians.. It's good to be reminded of the "noise" of the young.*

*As we take on our individual roles in the Asia-Oceania region, we pray that we may recognize that we are not alone in this mis-*

*sion. We have the entire Salesian Family... and we have this loud and vibrant youth (also at the Majcen Vocational Training Center in Vietnam!) with us».*

We wish Br. Dominic Nam a similar learning experience of listening to the regional leadership in the other 10 Regions of the Salesian Cooperators along with their colleagues in the Past Pupils of Don Bosco.



series of [interview with Past Pupils of each of the 23 EAD countries](#) (Youtube) already launched.

The youngest of the video-conference group (Mr. Niel Evangelista, 27) offered his service as meeting secretary and reporter on Facebook: «*While having our meeting this afternoon, one of the participants had a very noisy background. According to*

EAD - GEX (Giovani Exallievi: Young Past Pupils of Don Bosco)

Related news article:

- \* [AustraLasia 5395 \(III\) Br. Dominic Nam appointe world delegate for ASC-DB Alumni](#)

Related resources on the Boscolink:

- \* [Resource manual for the ASC Delegates. Niel Evangelista \(GEX\)](#)

# East Timor



## ONLINE MEETING of Past Pupils Federation of Don Bosco

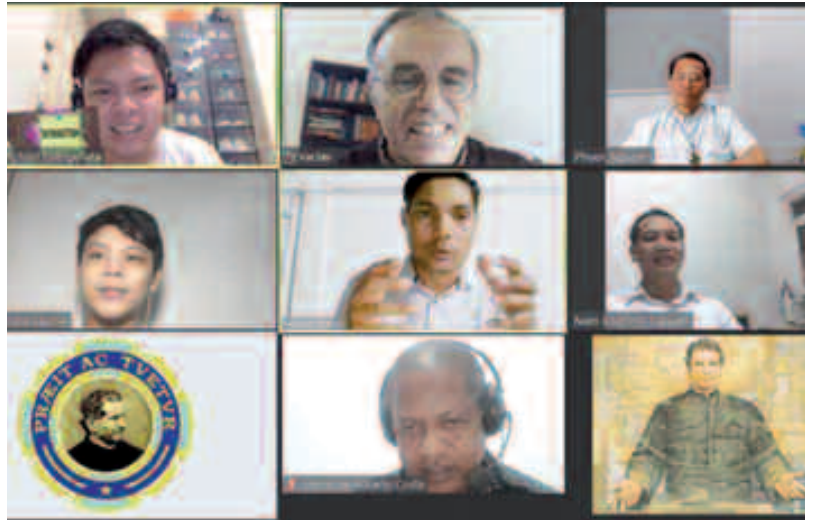
Dili, East Timor - July 2020

Taking place on July 26 was the first online meeting involving the leadership of the **Don Bosco Past Pupils Federation of East Timor**, the Councilor for the East Asia-Oceania Region, Fr Joseph Phuoc, the World Delegate of the Past Pupils, Dominic Nam, the Young Past Pupils Councilor (GEX) for Asia-Oceania, Niel Evangelista, and Fr Václav Klement, Extraordinary Visitor "ad nutum" and "pro tempore".

This was the first of a series of "virtual visits" to each of the Past Pupils Federations of the Region.

The current **President of the National Federation, Azevedo Marcal**, presented the work of the Past Pupils in East Timor, highlighting its most important features: the attention paid to young people through multiple activities and its synergy with the Salesian Youth Movement.

In conclusion, the GEX Regional Councilor presented a new regional project for the 150th anniversary of the Past Pupils, a Video-Talkshow, which will be launched on 16 August 2020 as a gift for Don Bosco's 205th birthday.





Haiti



## ACODOSAH COMMITTEE MEETING (Association of Past Pupils of Dominique Savio)



On June 20th, 2020, the committee members of ACODOSAH (Association of Past Pupils of Dominique Savio Haiti) held a virtual meeting via zoom.

Mr. Eduardo Pessoa Cavalcante, Vice President of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco (from Brazil) suggested this meeting which was organized by Jude Elie, President of ACODOSAH.

The primary goal of the gathering was to get to know each other, to discuss the experiences and challenges that we face when helping the most vulnerable people in our country.

We also discussed ways to plant the seeds of a constructive relationship between ACODOSAH and the Confederation in order for ACODOSAH to reach the next level of leadership in the region.

The meeting started with a prayer offered by Mr. Cavalcante.

After the prayer, Mister Cavalcante shared the story of his life journey with the Salesians and the World Confederation. He drew a connection between Brazil and Haiti; both countries are facing the same issues of extreme poverty.

It was overly impressive to notice how familiar Mr. Cavalcante was with Haiti and its everyday's struggles.

This was a genuine show of generosity towards us, for which we are appreciative.

Following the presentation of the Association's history, vision, and mission by Mr. Elie and Mr. Dorcé, Mrs. Yverose Francois, one

of our Representatives in Haiti, assessed the current social and political situation in Haiti.

She painted a dark picture of the realities that are impacting every aspect of life on the island.

She also expressed concerns in regards to issues relating to our field interventions to "Give back to our school and our community".

Afterward, Mrs. Romane Joseph, a committee member, gave a detailed account of ACODOSAH'S membership status, accomplishments, funding methods, information on the new projects, and the roadblocks that impeded the achievement of the goals set.

As she highlighted, despite obstacles such as COVID-19, situational issues, and other barriers, ACODOSAH created "IMPACT". The Impact initiative is rooted in our belief

that “**EDUCATING A CHILD IS BUILDING A COUNTRY**”. This program, legalized in Haiti and the United States, provides education access to students in need to attend our Dominique Savio College in Pétion-Ville.

In the same spirit of promoting excellence, ACODOSAH sponsored school activities and international competitions that our students participated in.

She also reported that, on a greater scale, our Representatives in Haiti have been active in the fight against COVID-19 through the education of our members and distribution of masks and hand sanitizers within the community.

Moving forward, ACODOSAH has an extremely ambitious plan leading to 2021.

The Association hopes to embark on the following projects: launch an international membership drive to better communicate with our members, raise USD \$30,000 to

sponsor at a minimum fifty students, renovate and modernize CODOSAH's Computer Lab, guide our youth through trainings, conferences, and events.

Lastly, we pledged to work in closer partnership with other Salesian organizations around the world as we continue to uphold our mission and achieve our goals.

Overall, the meeting with Mr. Cavalcante was a great first step in the right direction.

We are grateful for his presence, friendship, and feedback to create a solid organizational structure with dedicated people who will work tirelessly to change people's lives through thorough and achievable projects that reflect our community's values and struggles.

We adjourned the meeting incredibly hopeful because the future belongs to all of us collectively.

At the closing, we officially invited Mr. Ca-

valcante to join us at our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala of Past Pupils of Don Bosco, which will be held in Haiti in 2021.**

The gala is a great space to celebrate our camaraderie, to thank and to honor our Salesian Archbishops, Priests, and Educators who have impacted our lives, and to renew our commitment to our school, our community, and our country Haiti that we all cherish.

Present for the ACODOSAH Committee:

Jude Elie	President
Patrick Dorcé	Vice President
Wilner Paul	Treasury Secretary
Remy Exant	Spokesperson
Dr Eldere Germain	Committee Member
Romane Petit Joseph	Committee Member
Jean Michel Casséus	Committee Member
Guzman Saint Fleur	Haiti Coordinator
Yverose Francois	Haiti Coordinator Assistant
Yves Devaris,	Professor and Advisor

India



## EXPLORING THE DYNAMIC RICHNESS of South Asia Don Bosco Alumni

So far, it was the most participated meeting among the 7 provinces of Asia-Oceania Don Bosco Past Pupils team visits – first among the Indian provinces was visited New Delhi (INN), territory-wise the largest among the 12 SDB provinces in the sub-continent, with headquarters in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

From the INN participated three different Unions (New Delhi – Alaknanda DB and DB Okhla) with two GEX members from Ranchi region (Chattisgar), two SDB who accompany the Past Pupils (Rector and Delegate of Don Bosco Alaknanda, Fr Davis Maniparamben and SDB Delegate of Okhla Alumni Union) and also INN Federation delegate.

The India National GEX vicepresident, Mr. Jai Shankar was joined by another six Alumni of New Delhi Federation: Mr Prateek, Dr Kenhshuk Marwah, Mr Simon John, Mr Arunag Kumar, Ms Anupriya Ashna Panna and Mr Prem Toppo.

During the vibrant and enthusiastic experience sharing emerged the following trends: Although the Covid-19 pandemic affected badly many people (especially the migrant workers) in New Delhi region, for the **Don Bosco Alumni** it was a strong call to

action, inspired concrete solidarity deeds and amalgamated the Alumni groups.

The **New Delhi Don Bosco Alumni Federation** (INN) stretches among 18 states with a large population of more than 500 million, most of the Don Bosco presences are located in the rural settings, only few in the large cities.

Our Alumni are proud for 7 very active Unions where the adult and GEX alumni meet and work side by side.

The dynamic leadership made up of many different professions background is working on single digital platform – *Bosconian database*.

There are some sprouting up some new local centers (Ranchi area) thanks to committed SDB delegates and Alumni leaders.

The New Delhi participants acknowledge 3 main emerging challenges: How to motivate former Don Bosco students "*to come back to Don Bosco*", how to reach to everyone who receive Don Bosco education, how to encourage economically weaker members for their annual contributions (fees) and how to show to the wider public the "*added value*" of membership in the Association

(what are we doing).

Br Nam and Mr Niel shared some inspiration how to embrace these challenges as a good opportunity to grow.

At the end of the dynamic meeting all participants were really happy to experience the connection between Bosconians at international level.

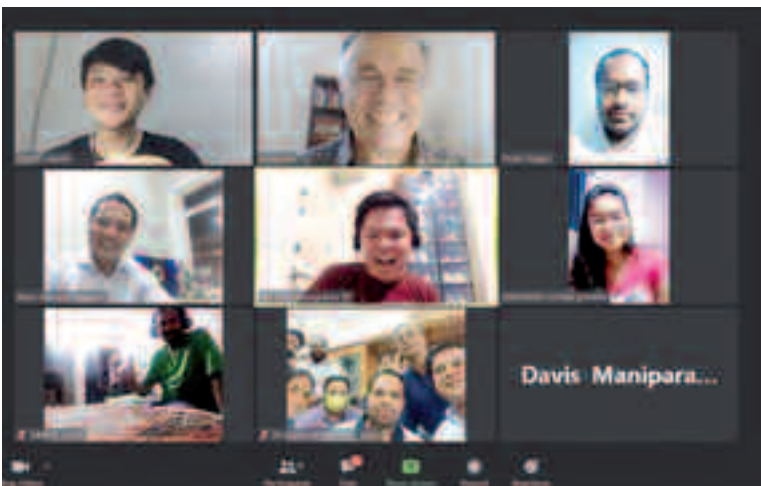
"*Definitely*" more other Indian Province Federation animation meetings will follow in near future.

As contribution to the 150th anniversary of Don Bosco Alumni, the Asia-Oceania GEX Councilor presented the "**GEXPRESSO**" talk-show on the digital platform (GEX Asia-Oceania: YOUTUBE and Facebook) and invited the leaders at the Federation level and local level to contribute the the 7 questions of the "2020 Jubilee Questionnaire" (online form):

<https://bit.ly/PastPupilsQuestionnaire2020>

Youtube introduction to the 2020 Questionnaire (2 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gbB3hdK2WM>



Uruguay



## "PECERA DE LOS LUNES": PROPOSAL FOR FORMATION and exchange in times of pandemic

(ANS - Melo)

The Past Pupils Center of the Salesian Institute "Monseñor Lasagna" (CML) of Melo Uruguay has organized the initiative called "*Pecera de los lunes*" (Fishbowl Monday) for several consecutive Mondays: a digital space exchange and reflection on the concerns that emerged among young people in times of pandemic, quarantine, social and economic crisis.

The first meeting, on the theme "*Re-signification in the time of Covid-19*", was accompanied by Javier Velázquez, Head of the Archdiocesan Institute of Formation (IAF). In that space they tried to build together a hopeful vision in the time of the pandemic.

"*How to live hope, albeit in isolation? How to give meaning and sense to the time of uncertainty? Where to place one's heart?*" were the questions that offered inputs to read reality from a Christian perspective and with faith.

In the second meeting, entitled "*Deconcentrate to connect*", the animator and psy-

chologist Florencia Nasif accompanied the work sessions by presenting different tools to return to the essence of oneself, to take advantage of time at home to become creative, and to find within oneself an infinite world to continue to learn.

Faced with the excessive use of technology and information saturation, the fundamental proposal was to stop and reconnect with oneself and with others, to have a true connection and communication.

The third meeting, "*How to be Church at home*", was animated by Fr Pablo Bonavía, professor of Theology.

The session discussed how to get closer to Jesus in the situation away from the churches, returning to the Gospel, to one's own prayer and personal encounter with Jesus.

«*We dream, as a community, where we would like to walk as a Church and what lessons this pandemic leaves us to start moving again*», the meeting organizers said.

Finally, the last "bowl or tank": "*Good Christians and upright citizens*", animated by Fr Francisco Lezama.

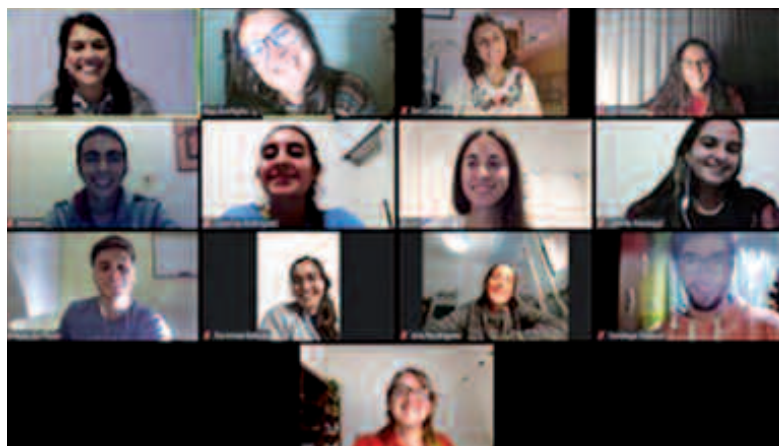
On this occasion they analyzed the different visions of reality, how the media are shaping the individual and collective perceptions of our society, the freedom and personal responsibility in the critical reading of reality, the ways in which individual action affects the construction of the world...

«*At CML we build the world together*», shared Santiago Noboa, one of the participants.

«*This is one of the reasons that led me to participate in the meetings, the desire to bring my grain of sand to a center that gives me so much.*

*Knowing that I would not only contribute, but also receive something. It was a great experience, from which I can take new steps and leave new footprints...».*

**Source:** Salesianos Uruguay







Haiti

## DON BOSCO PAST PUPILS SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AGAINST Covid-19 and accompany community

Pétion-Ville, Haiti - August 2020

With the aim of helping young people cope with Covid-19, the Past Pupils of the "Domenico Savio" Salesian Institute in Pétion-Ville distributed boxes of hydroalcoholic gel and masks at the school.

A symbolic gesture to accompany the Salesian house in facing the pandemic.

The Past Pupils want to accompany the young people most in need in Haitian society. For this they have also replaced the traditional chalkboards in the classrooms with more modern ones.

In the Caribbean country, lessons are scheduled to reopen next Monday, 10 August 2020, and the Past Pupils, thanks to their program called "IMPACT", have made available 10 scholarships for as many students valid for the entire academic year.

Last Sunday, moreover, as a sign of continuous attention to the association, the Provincial of the Salesians of Haiti, Fr Jean Paul Mesidor, presented the new Delegate for the Past Pupils, Fr Jean Sylvaint Jeannot, who replaces the late Fr Hector Pascal.



# Guatemala



## PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO distribute food to needy



Guatemala City, Guatemala - July 2020

On July 25 the Don Bosco Past Pupils of Guatemala undertook two important pandemic relief operations, one in favor of the Parish of "Divine Providence", and the other addressed to the Vocational Training Center (VTC) "Father Bartolomeo Ambrosio".

Both institutions received over 450 kg of beans, 450 kg of rice, and 100 sacks of salt.

The parish manages some social service centers named after Mamma Margherita, which offer food and shelter to migrants; while the VTC, which was once full of young people who enthusiastically learned their trade, is now a warehouse for food supplies waiting to be distributed to students, who study remotely, and their families.

Finally, it should be noted that the Past Pupils of Don Bosco are also participating in another initiative called "Various United Colors for a Mission": this is a synergy between Past Pupils of the Salesians, Marists and Jesuits who distribute essential cereals in various areas of the country.





India

## PAST PUPILS OF ALAKNANDA PRODUCE live broadcast on Facebook to report on COVID-19



New Delhi, India - July 2020

The Don Bosco Past Pupils Association of Alaknanda organized a live event on Facebook with Dr. Sai Kiran Chaudhuri, one of the leading pulmonologists who heads the pneumology department of the Delhi Heart and Lung Institute.

Dr. Chaudhuri spoke on various aspects of COVID-19: precautions, symptoms, tests, roles of the various drugs, prevention and post-discharge management of the patient.

Considerable time was spent on answering questions from the audience.

At the end of the program, which recorded 1,700 views, the Past Pupils' activities in the last 10 months were presented: a food program for poor children, with the distribution of 2,500 meals; a campaign for blood donation; free tests for thalassemia; free eye exams; and the distribution of 100 personal protection kits.



India



## VIVEK SAINI, SALESIAN PAST PUPIL, a frontline warrior fight against Covid-19

(ANS - New Delhi)

Dr. Vivek Saini, a Salesian past pupil of the Don Bosco Institute in New Delhi, 2009 alumnus, is one of the "warriors" in the frontline in the global fight against Covid-19.



He is currently deploying his medical expertise at the *Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital* (LNJP) in New Delhi, currently the largest hospital dedicated to combating Covid-19 in India.

He has already served three cycles, each lasting one month, in the Intensive Care Unit.

If you ask his professors what memories they have of Vivek, they will tell you about a shy and introverted boy who, however, loved to participate in as many extracurricular activities as possible.

Even today he proudly holds dear a portfolio of all the certificates he won during his student days, with notes of merit in drawing, basketball and ping-pong.

Vivek is also a trekking enthusiast and semi-professional travel photographer. His "*Khanabdashi*" Instagram page is like his digital alter ego. After school, he attended the University

Course of Medicine and Surgery at the prestigious "*Maulana Azad Medical College*". He later completed the specialization in Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the same college.

In his professional and human curriculum, there is also a 10-month service with "Doctors Without Borders", during which he worked in the remote health centers in the peripheries, trying to eradicate the local infectious diseases prevalent in West Bengal.

Currently, he works at the LNJP, where the Delhi government has provided him with accommodation, as he must observe strict isolation, away from family and friends, during the period of activity.

Given the nature of his service, the shifts, even if they involve a natural rotation, are quite irregular.

Sometimes Vivek's shift starts at 3 am and continues until 10 am. The worst part of the job, however, is not the time schedule, but working with all the personal protective equipment on.

Many healthcare professionals have fainted from heat and dehydration while wearing them. Once the kit is on, you cannot

eat, drink or use the bathroom until you have properly undressed and sterilized everything. In addition, the safety goggles and visor fog up due to heat and humidity, making it even more difficult to see and act.

It is under these conditions that all healthcare professionals like Vivek take care of patients.

*«Working in the ICU has, so far, been like a bag of mixed feelings, like an unpleasant roller coaster ride» - says Vivek. «There are days when unfortunate news has to be broken to several families, while on other days, the joy on the face of recovered patients is a blessing like a ray of hope.*

*The work effort put in by the medical teams throughout the world may never truly be completely compensated».*

Despite everything, Vivek truly believes that, despite our shortcomings, humans are capable of incredible feats and he looks to the future with confidence. *«These are undoubtedly difficult times. But we also have the opportunity to be the most beautiful version of ourselves.*

*It's times like these that say how good and humane we really are... The world shall recover from the pandemic soon. The tragic loss of those who've left us shall linger for long.*

*But hopefully, we'll make a better world with all that this pandemic has taught us».*

Fr Babu Varghese, SDB



India



## ONE MILLION MEALS IN 100 DAYS!



(ANS - Mumbai)

The Past Pupils of the Salesian Institute "St Domenico Savio" in Andheri, Mumbai, celebrated 100 days of beneficial and supportive activities in support of the population left without resources due to the pandemic, thus reaching a symbolic milestone of great meaning: the delivery of the millionth cooked meal.

Working in 65 distribution points within the Indian megalopolis, as part of the "Feed My Mumbai" campaign, the pupils took turns in this humanitarian service, created with the intention of ensuring that no person went to sleep hungry in the evening. For 100 days, flanked by numerous volun-

teers and by the Salesians of Don Bosco, the past pupils of the center of Andheri, while respecting the regulations imposed, courageously left their homes in order to distribute nutritious meals, already cooked, to the needy and disadvantaged.

And the millionth meal was delivered on Sunday, July 12, to a person in need by one of about 300 "Corona Warriors" as the group has renamed itself.

Anthony Mascarenhas, President of the Association of Past Pupils of the "St Domenico Savio" Institute in Andheri, said: «Thanks to the Salesians who have been with us all, we have benefited many people in Mumbai alone, including migrant wor-





*kers, slum dwellers, rags collectors, scavengers, daily wage workers, tribals, the elderly, people who ask for alms...*

*With 25 partner companies that supported our campaign, we started distributing food kits, hygiene kits, materials to organize a makeshift refuge... in 65 locations in Mumbai, with over 300 people to collaborate».*

The past pupils worked in tandem with the Canossian Daughters of Charity-Servants of the Poor (FDCC-Canossian Nuns), other volunteers and many "good Samaritans", to help - with selfless dedication - all that large mass of people who in the major Indian city in these days of pandemic and social crisis has remained without sustenance.

The million meals delivered represent, in this mission, only an example of the fact that with a well-coordinated plan and action, great works can be achieved together.

Mr Mascarenhas concludes: «A big thank you to *Father Brian Moras, Rector and Delegate*, for his support along with the entire Salesian community, the Salesian Cooperators and well-wishers.

*We also owe a debt of gratitude to our Alma Mater, for making us what we are. We now look ahead, our aim is to reach out to more location/affected areas in Mumbai and rural belts in Maharashtra with the support of our CSR partners who are growing in number with each passing day».*

India



## SOLIDARITY AND EDUCATION: cornerstones of social and educational action of Sonada Salesian Institute



(ANS - Sonada)

While for months India has been grappling with the challenges created by the pandemic, a Salesian educational center, located in the state of West Bengal, near Darjeeling, not far from the border with Nepal, uses every means to meet the demands of those in need, offering material support, digitized lessons and scholarships. This is the case of the Salesian Institute of Sonada.

In their social commitment to helping the most needy, the school is represented by the Dean of the Institute and **Salesian past pupil Terence Mukhia**, who is also the President of the Society United Christian Minorities Welfare of Sonada (SUCMWS), an organization that gathers 14 Christian

groups from the Sonada area.

*«Initially we were afraid of being infected and exposing my family members at risk. Still, I felt that something had to be done, not as an individual, but as a community»*, says prof. Mukhia.

This is how the professor, ever since two young people knocked on his door asking for help, has come to lead a rescue project for migrant workers from Nepal, Christians in need of the Sonada locality, who have been stuck in the Sonada area and barely manage to survive.

Overall, from June 4 to July 29, SUCMWS organized five expeditions for the delivery of aid, relying on the contribution of many: *«The resources - in money, goods or services - arrived generously from religious,*







*priests, lay people, members of family and friends»*, says the professor.

Furthermore, since the main purpose of the Salesian school is education, the leaders of the institute have continued to work hard also in this sector.

Thus, from 1 May and until early July - before the start of the exams - they made available the radio station "Darjeeling Radio Salesian" (90.8) for the English-language broadcast of 10-15 minutes of 12 subjects to the benefit of the students of 64 colleges affiliated to the University of North Bengal.

The project, called "Radio Edu Pods", saw the voluntary participation of about 50 professors from 9 colleges. They recorded

their lessons with their mobile phones and sent them to the editorial staff of "Darjeeling Radio Salesian" on WhatsApp for editing.

And to ensure that students can access the lessons without time limits, they have also been adapted for video and uploaded to the SALESIAN TV YouTube channel.

Finally, looking ahead to the next school year, the school management has decided not to raise school fees and to offer 30 scholarships to its students, divided into six categories.

As school principal Fr George Thadathil explained: «*It is our continuous effort to make higher education accessible to students who otherwise would not be able to attend*».



Italy



(ANS - Rome)

On 19 July 2020 at 6:30 in the morning, prof. Fr Carlo Nanni, SDB, Magnificent Rector Emeritus of the UPS (2009-2015), passed away at the age of 75 due to a serious illness.

On Tuesday 21 July, at 11 am, in the parish of Santa Maria della Speranza in Rome, the last greeting to prof. Fr Carlo Nanni, aged 75, was celebrated. Professor and rector emeritus of the Salesian Pontifical University, he passed away on July 19. The homily was given by Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians and Grand Chancellor of the UPS.

«Death for the Salesian is made bright by the hope of entering into the joy of his Lord, and when it happens that a Salesian dies for souls, the Congregation has won a great triumph», said the Rector Major during the homily, citing article 54 of the Salesian Constitutions.

«These moments» - continued the Rector Major, «are not for making nice speeches, but for bearing witness to faith. I believe that not everything ends here, I believe that it is true that today Carlo is already in God, and we thank him for the life he has given us, joyful and passionate as a Salesian of Don Bosco.

*It is a day of pain but also of hope: in this present, which is not ours, death does not have the last word, God has already won it*

## GOODBYE, FRIEND OF YOUNG PEOPLE. Last farewell to Fr Carlo Nanni

*with the Resurrection and in a certain sense, Carlo has earned it.*

*e thank God for giving us the life of our dear confrere».*

To remind all of the commitment and generous service of Fr Carlo were also prof. Fr Mauro Mantovani, Rector of the UPS, prof. Fr Mario Oscar Llanos, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences, and Fr Stefano Aspitati, Provincial of the Salesian District of Central Italy, of which Fr Carlo Nanni was a professor.

A greeting to Fr Carlo was also made by the **Salesian Past Pupils** who remembered him for his culture, "*combative, concrete and full of active momentum*".

Many sent a message of condolence for the loss of prof. Fr Carlo Nanni, the friend of the young. Among the messages, also that of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone who, deeply saddened, wanted to remember «*his sincere friendship, his relational ability, his competence and dedication as a scholar of education at the service of the Salesian mission, of the Italian Church and of the Holy See*».

Msgr. Adriaan van Luyn and Msgr. Luc Van Looy also spoke, highlighting Fr Carlo's joy and his fully Salesian charism.

On the afternoon of July 21, the funeral was also celebrated in the birthplace of Fr Nanni, i.e., Ischia di Castro (Viterbo), and he was buried in the family tomb.





## Beginning of a dream life...



When, in October 1956, my father - a Maremma breeder - took me to boarding school in Mandrione, he was a little disconcerted, almost with the feeling of having put me in a large municipal herd, as he did with our horses and cows when he wasn't using them for work. Instead for me it was the beginning of a life of enchantment, of a dream life, a fabulous life!

Still today I can say. "*haec olim meminisse iuvabit!*"

I didn't know Salesians before. But I was immediately conquered by them! I remember them all, clerics, aids, priests, assistants, superiors. Their living with us, their closeness and friendship, their intense dedication to us and to the "common work"



of educating, the family spirit - despite (but going beyond) the economic hardship or the rigidity of the boarding school's rules and guidelines - attracted me and marked me indelibly.

As you know, I teach Pedagogy and I'm Head of an Educational Sciences Department.

Well, I must candidly confess that in this regard my term of reference and comparison, rather than the "Scientific Pedagogy", remains the lived experience of the preventive system of Don Bosco in Mandrione.

Father Carlo Nanni

(*In Cordata DB*, December the 8th 2008, page 18)

Italy



## A MEMORY OF SERGIO ZAVOLI past pupil of Don Bosco



*Sergio Zavoli, Gianni Brera and Bruno Raschi participate in the "Stage Trial" led by Zavoli*

(ANS - Rome)

In the general moved memory that all Italy is dedicating to Sergio Zavoli - one of the most authoritative names in Italian journalism, TV personality and famous radio voice, Senator of the Republic and prestigious thinker - maybe his Salesian school backgrounds are passing over a little in silence. And yet, he himself loved to tell and write about his past in the Salesian environment. There are numerous ideas that he gave in his book: *"The Boy I Was"*.

«On Sunday we went to the "five o'clock" retreat in the Salesian church. It wasn't just a habit, nor was it always a spiritual vehemence to bring us in the warm and slightly staggering breath of that crowded afternoon function.

Maybe, what attracted us most of all, was *"the coupon"* which would have given us, shortly thereafter and for free, the right to attend the movie shown at the movie-hall of

the parish. A small blackmail, since then forgiven to Father Rossi, blackmailed by us thousands of times. What a priest!

As high as a pole, skilled in making the cassock take the right turn when he turned, with a sash that made his waist stand out and made you imagine an athlete's body, I was wondering what kind of misfortune had trapped him inside that black cage».

«[...] As to us, the boys of the oratory, we were already ready to ask questions, although we understood that the answers would have arrived with some caution, and only sometimes a fleeting risk so as not to discourage our most audacious expectations.

Why does God choose to be born on the Earth, in the person of Jesus, after millennia from the so-called big-bang?

And on that very day, on that very night and furthermore in a place with little water, almost devoid of shade? And the telephone? And the radio? According to a Lutheran school, explained to us the Salesian Father

Rossi, the reason why the divine Word, the Word, became Flesh (John 1,14) *"and came to live among us"*, two thousand years ago, belonged to the time when the Logos, the thought, stretched along the Mare Nostrum thanks to the arrival of the writing».

«[...] I remember that when I was a child, in the Salesian church in Rimini, I asked to Father Rossi if he had ever thought to Jesus' birth as to some kind of holy fairy tale with which gently let the idea of God swing into the minds of us children.

He sat on a bench, keeping me standing in front of him to have his eyes in mine and the answer came out almost as if he owed it to himself. He told me with what words in seminary he had got away with an impertinence equal to mine. But then proceeding in his doubts and replacing the miracle in the powers of God, everything little by little became admirably credible!

Jesus himself, after all, told that the Heavenly Father had addressed to a serene

and young creature, capable of amazement and mildness, and so everything had happened according to God's Will. [...] My father who got along with priests so-so, told me that Father Rossi was right and I was happy about it. My father said that the Salesians must be respected. In fact Don Bosco was not a vagabond».

«[...] Father Rossi played soccer with us in the Salesian playing field. The teams were called "Ausa" - which was the name of a stinky canal - "Grey Mices" and "Infected Area".

From the names we understand that we were in a not at all clean place, but no disease has never come to us, not even in the mud of the canal and my father said that what does not choke, strengthens.

He said it in a manner of speaking. I was from "Ausa" and I was playing in goal. My mother sewed me a pair of black shorts with side padding so if I dived, I would have felt less bad».

According to the author, Sergio Zavoli, "*The Boy I Was*" «after all, is the attempt to understand what the memory, from the farthest to the most imminent, can let to a child which seems on the way, as it was for me at his age, to becoming 'scrittore', a word preserved for a long time, in silence, in the innocent imagination of my mother». So says Zavoli, with his usual expression: «As always, let the facts do the talking».

Pierluigi Lazzarini

(Alumnus and Historian of Don Bosco)

Article published on May the 10th 2019 in "*Spiridon*", a monthly telematic review directed by Giors Oneto - alumnus of Don Bosco from Prato - on which numerous sports journalists are writing.

SERGIO ZAVOLI  
IL RAGAZZO CHE IO FUI



Sergio Zavoli with Raimondo Vianello and Sandro Ciotti



1958 Giro d'Italia. From left Sergio Zavoli, Giovanni Mosca, Fausto Coppi, Nino Oppeda

Italy



## "FRIENDS OF DON BOSCO COMMITTEE" in support of Salesian oratory of Caserta

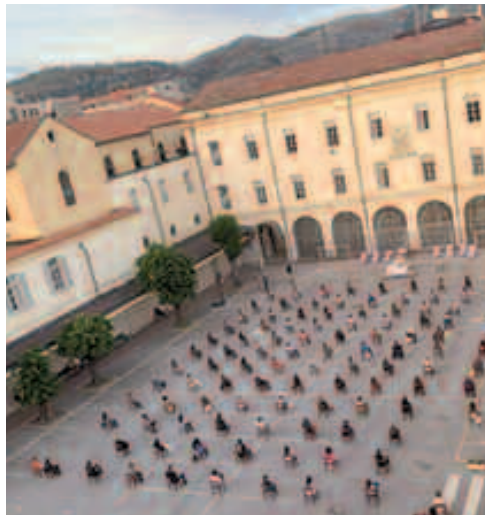


(ANS - Caserta)

Creativity, co-responsibility between religious and lay people, solidarity between different generations: often in imagining an "outgoing Church", that knows how to turn authoritatively to the individuals of the 21st century, an appeal is made to foster these characteristics.

In Caserta it seems that these appeals have not fallen on deaf ears: a clear example took place on the evening of Sunday 5 July, when the press conference to present the nascent "*Friends of Don Bosco Committee*" was held in the amphitheater of the Salesian Institute "Sacred Heart of Mary".

The Committee was born not on the initiative of the Salesians, but of the laity, especially of the parents of the children who



attend the Salesian center. The aim of the committee is to find new ways, new spaces and collaborations with local bodies to ensure that the Salesian charism, present in the Caserta for over 120 years, can continue to operate its educational, pastoral and social mission.

The press conference event showed already at first glance exemplary coordination and a significant family spirit, with the adults gathered in the Amphitheater and the youngest ones in the courtyard next door, engaged in the activities of the Children's Summer Camp 2020, Estate Ragazzi. Many people were present, all wearing anti-Covid-19 masks.

Among the prominent figures attending were the [mayor of Caserta Carlo Marino](#), a former Oratorian; the local representati-



ves of the "Italian Red Cross", in addition to the representatives of the various sectors of the Salesian Family, including the Director of the Institute, Fr Gino Martucci; the Director of the oratory, Fr Giancarlo D'Ercole; the local coordinator of the Salesian Cooperators, Federica Liguori; and the **President of the Past Pupils Union of Don Bosco, Alfonso Voccia**.

«*The Committee must be a transversal structure so that the oratory remains the centerpiece of a Salesian house and everyone, in our different roles, must marry this cause!*», said the **President of the Friends of Don Bosco Committee, Mauro Giaquinto**.

«*The Salesian community is a piece of our city, of the history and culture of our city. Many young people, including me, have had the opportunity to build their own life path in this house which must continue to be the home of children, education, sociability, creativity and skills*», said the Mayor of Caserta.

For his part, Fr Martucci, who wished to send a message to all citizens of Caserta,

said: «*The world of young people is the present and at the same time the future. We cannot miss the appointment with History... We have a history of more than one hundred years on our shoulders that forces us to continue dreaming as Don Bosco and his successors did.*

*This History empowers us and projects us forward in order to respond to the educational needs of the city».*

As the evening proceeds, almost synthesizing every speech, the spontaneous cry of

one of the boys interrupts the conference, followed by the moved applause of all present: "**The Oratory is my life!**".

The "**Friends of Don Bosco Committee**" is open not only to alumni and parents of the boys of the work, but to all citizens of Caserta who recognize the social and educational role of the Salesians in the city and who, consequently, want to collaborate. For further information and to join, write to: [comitatodonbosco.caserta@gmail.com](mailto:comitatodonbosco.caserta@gmail.com)

**Source:** CasertaWeb



Thailand



## SONS OF DON BOSCO: GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS



Huahin, Thailand - August 2020

From 15 to 16 August 2020, the Young Alumni - Salesian Aspirants, who were in the Aspirantate from 1988-2020, organized a 'meeting' at the Salesian Retreat House in Huahin.

The Aspirants, their families, the Salesian confreres who in the past were rectors and assistants, met officially for the first time in a period of about ten years.

The day's activities began on the morning of August 15 with a liturgical service and were followed by a conference on "*Good Christians and upright citizens*" held by Fr Thanad Anan, SDB, Provincial Delegate for the Past Pupils of Thailand.



## DON JAYAPALAN RAPHAEL

Success is not in winning always,  
it lies in the constant effort to march on



### The most beautiful memory you will carry with you of these years as the World Delegate of Don Bosco's Past Pupils?

«At the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude and immense joy as I lay down my office after having served the *Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco as the World Delegate for 4 years (2016-2020)*. It has been a God-given opportunity to visit and animate the Past Pupils' Federations around the world. I am grateful to Rev. Fr. Ángel Artime Fernández SDB, the Rector Major, for this singular opportunity, to the Presidency members for their friendship and collaboration, to the national/provincial delegates and presidents around the world for their great respect and affection, and to our lay collaborators - Mr. Pierluigi Lazzarini, the director of *Newsflash*, Mr. Vito Gentili, ready for any good work and Mr. Peter Kovach who did a wonderful service of coordination and organisation - who have been mainly responsible for all that we could do these years».

As I pass on the baton to Bro. Dominic Nguyen Duc Nam SDB from Vietnam, I recall some wonderful experiences that made me realise how much the association has grown in these 150 years. I have seen personally great enthusiasm of the past pupils in various countries like India, Spain, Italy,

*Brazil, Slovakia, Portugal, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Timor Leste, Cambodia, the United States, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Tanzania, etc.*

*I was happy to see the dynamic delegates and presidents and their various initiatives for and through the past pupils.*

*The Asian Congress of Past pupils at Timor Leste and the South American Congress (Congrelaat) at the Dominican Republic were organized very well by the Regional Federations with great enthusiasm and precision.*

*The national congresses of India, Brazil, Spain and Italy are imprinted in my heart.*

*The meeting of African delegates and presidents in Kenya showed a great future is possible in African continent if helped consistently.*

*An experience that remains embedded in my heart is the visit to the "Cristal school" in Timor Leste, run by the past pupils for about 5000 poor students, an outstanding example of the commitment of the past pupils. More than 100 schools built by Fr. Vincenzo SDB in Kenya and South Sudan with the help of the past pupils of South Korea and Japan is yet another sign of the spirit*

*of Don Bosco burning in the hearts of the past pupils and what they can achieve. The involvement of the past pupils in many countries at the time of national disaster like Tsunami and Covid-19 is praiseworthy.*

*I have always admired Indian Federation for its wonderful organisation of past pupils with 138 units in 11 provinces, with a regular well-attended annual meeting and a number of initiatives at the service of the poorest young people at the provincial and local levels. There are many other memorable experiences that are etched in my mind».*

### Which achievements do you consider the most significant?

«At the world level, it was my joy to see the following System set up: the meeting of the World Presidency every year and the Executive council every three months; Continental regional meetings once in four years; Clarity and vision with the strategic plan with 7 priorities focussing on: 1) information (database, communication); 2) formation (personal formation, family, salesian family); and 3) transformation (business platform and fund-raising for the salesian mission and social projects).

*Focus has been given to the Formation of GEX (Giovani EXallievi) with a world vice*

president, regional GEX councillors and a specific formation programme for GEX. Enthusiasm among the Salesians and past pupils in various countries and provinces has filled me with joy and optimism.

**Newsflash:** It is the quarterly online magazine that brings out the news and informations about the past pupils all over the world. If I have to name one concrete, consistent and practical achievements at the world level, in the last three years, it is this **Newsflash**. **ANS** has served as the main source.

I have admired a lot Mr. Pierluigi Lazzarini, the director of **Newsflash**, who has shown extraordinary commitment, expertise and love for Don Bosco in bringing it out on-time with extensive articles and informations».

### How do you see the future of the World Confederation of Don Bosco's Past Pupils?

«This jubilee year is a blessing to the past pupils to go back to the roots (24 June 1870) in order to fly with wings, inspiring them to become more active and alive in the present context, and to realise the dreams of Don Bosco for whom the process of education and development did not end when the young person left the youth centre or the parish or graduated from the educational institution.

It is a continuous process making the young person a valuable asset to the society and to his/her mission. I highlight a few challenges for the World Federation of Past Pupils.



#### 1. Creation of Local Units

It is important to focus on creation of local units in 'every' Salesian centre (institution). Initial official registration with a financial commitment, constant communication and effective formation at the unit and federation level would facilitate their commitment and sense of belonging.

The real challenge is to reach out to past pupils who are not yet registered members of the association in order to respond to the concern expressed by Don Bosco in the very first meeting in 1870.

#### 2. Focus on the Organisation

The local units need to be formed into provincial/national Federations.

While focussing on re-activation of the federations that are struggling and enhancing the powerful ones, it is important to help the provinces that need to take the first steps. Active secretariat at Rome under the guidance of the World Delegate would help the organisation better. Greater sharing and collaboration of the

Delegate and the President at the world and national/provincial levels will enhance the number of the members as well as the quality of the World Confederation. Mobilising finance for its own stability, for empowerment of the regional councillors in their animations and for the upliftment of the poorest through social projects is a dire need.

Geographical areas like Africa and certain provinces of Asia and Oceania need to be guided to create units and eventually federations.

There is a need for greater focussed Lay leadership, a united World Presidency team and an effective Executive Council with a greater follow-up and commitment with missionary vision. Hopefully the revision of the statutes and the formation of the new presidency team in 2021 Assembly will facilitate this.

#### 3. Formation Programmes

There is a greater need today, more than ever, to devise the formation programmes for personal formation, leadership formation and family formation, because the Association is basically for the growth and maturity of members themselves.

Formation of the past pupils to be honest citizens and committed Christians (God-centered person) will ultimately help them become leaders in public spheres.

Accompanying the young past pupils is necessary so that they become future leaders, filled with passion for Christ (God)

and love for Don Bosco, eradicating any temptation of superficiality, banality, power and comfort».

### **In the Church today there is talk of the new evangelization. How can this be understood when compared to the Past Pupils?**

«The Association of Past Pupils is a unique member of the Salesian Family since it is composed of members from non-Christian religions as well in different parts of the world.

In this scenario, the Association has a two-fold function with regard to New evangelisation: While taking care of the faith-formation of the catholic past pupils, it has to cater to the religious journey of the non-Christians as well, helping them to grow with the Gospel values.

New Evangelisation calls for building up God's Kingdom of peace, justice and unity.

In this perspective, the Association is called to make a difference in the world and pave the way for its transformation based on the values of the Gospel.

It is called to give priority and centrality to the Salesian mission for the poorest and most needy youngsters concretely in all decisions. A life lived for others is a life lived well».

### **Pupils are present in more than 100 nations and on all continents, immersed in very different cultures. How can unity and identity be preserved?**



«Personally, I do not have proof or data to prove that there are associations in more than 100 countries, though the Salesians are present in 134 countries.

Wherever we have, in order to preserve and promote the unity and the world identity of the Association, I would consider the following strategies essential: As of now we have no statistics at all because we have no Database.

We need to have "registered" members with formation programme before the registration to know the implications, the official registration of members with an official function and with a minimum financial contribution;

The World Confederation needs to empower the regional councillors with financial assistance and formation materials, to move around in their regions animating the national/provincial federations;

There has to be a lot more co-ordination between the Delegates (Salesians) and Presidents (Lay). The Association is a "Lay" association and the Delegate is a spiritual

and charismatic guide. However, the delegate's role should not be limited just to initial prayer and mass.

My experience is that the Association has grown in places where there is a cordial, Salesian and effective collaboration between the two;

The Association needs financial resources for the animation and organisation.

Basically it has to be mobilised among the members. There has to be also a prudent way of spending money, cutting down the unnecessary expenses (e.g. Annual meeting of world presidency in 'various continents') and spending more on the animation of past pupils in the provinces/countries by the Regional councillors».

### **We try to be optimistic, to look to the future with enthusiasm. Do you want to end this interview with a word, a message that you think it's right to give us?**

«The organisation of the Past Pupils' Association is not easy.

We can find motivation in the words of Saint Mother Teresa: "When you are not able to run fast, run slowly. When you are not able to run at all, walk; when you are not able to walk, use the stick; but never, never stop".

The challenge is exactly to understand that success is not in winning always, it lies in the constant effort to march on».

Pierluigi Lazzarini

Laos



## INTERVIEW WITH SANYA BOONPRASERT, founder of Past Pupils of "Don Bosco" of Vientiane

(ANS - Vientiane)

The "Don Bosco" Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Vientiane, capital of Laos, is the only Salesian presence in the country; it began in 2004, thanks to the zeal of Fr Tito Pedron.

After a difficult start, the work was recognized by the Laotian government and currently welcomes about 150 students from every province of Laos. This is where Mr. Sanya Boonprasert works, the founder of the Past Pupils of the "Don Bosco" of Vientiane.

**How did you start your work in Vientiane?**

«It was 2004. After two years at the Aspirantate in Nazareth, I prayed and said to

*Mary Help of Christians: "If there is an opportunity in my life to help children or young people in difficulty, I will follow the spirit of Bosco. And I will do it with joy".*

*So when Fr Tito Pedron and the provincial council of Thailand decided to open a new work in Laos and thought about me, I immediately said yes.*

*The first few years were humble. I started with courses for Electricians and Motorcycle Mechanics.*

*The following year the first student arrived, his name was Thao Sansuk.*

*We used the courtyard of our house, there was only a tent and a table.*

*In the following years, younger people were admitted, who then became teachers once they graduated».*





**What were the main challenges during the first few years?**

«The challenge was to start a Salesian work from scratch in a new country.

The goal was to open a Vocational Training Center in Vientiane.

There were some problems, but in those cases, I consulted with Father Pedron and we sought a solution. Furthermore, when problems arose, I always turned to the image of Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco in my room».

**What are the best moments spent in Laos?**

«Our Vocational Training Center was closed at some point.

But all the teachers and students of that time did not want to leave Don Bosco, no-

body returned home. Everyone agreed to work for a year to find a solution.

It was great. Another nice thing is to be able to see so many poor kids who manage to change their lives.

Thanks to Don Bosco they had the opportunity to study, to make a career for themselves and therefore able to feed their families».

**What is your dream?**

«My dream is to see the Vientiane Vocational Training Center grow steadily and expand in various other districts of Laos, where there are really many poor young people. I would like the "Don Bosco" Vocational Training Center in Vientiane to become a clear example of the work that the Past Pupils carry out together with the Salesian confreres to help young people».



## Israel



## SALESIAN HOUSE IN BEITGEMAL, witness of Salesian life of Simone Srugi



Don Gian Maria Gianazza

(ANS - Beitgemal)

Among the Salesian works in the Holy Land there is the house of Beitgemal. It was founded in 1878 by Fr Antonio Belloni as an orphanage and agricultural area, and is now directed by Fr Gian Maria Gianazza, in the Middle East since 1960.

The dormant area is a community of nuns and one of friars, and houses the tomb of Saint Stephen and the Salesian coadjutor Simone Srugi, a central figure for the Salesians of the Middle East, who founded a dispensary here that offered medical assistance to the area's inhabitants.

Simone Srugi, today Venerable, was well-liked by everyone; even the bandits infesting the area who, if they didn't altogether love him, did at least admire and respect him. It is thus Simone Srugi who the [Past Pupils](#) of the work, years later, will re-

member as the holiest Salesian and the most influential educator. Among house's activities, the mill made available to farmers and their mediation for disputes concerning residents has also remained in the memory of the locals.

The Beitgemal area had been a swampy area for a long time, which the Salesians reclaimed over the years, making it cultivable.

Today Beitgemal is characterized by being a Church presence in a fully Jewish context, by welcoming numerous visitors, mainly Jews and immigrants from Eastern countries.

These visitors are undoubtedly attracted by the beauty of the place, but they can also find the opportunity for an essential cate-



Beitgemal

chesis on Christianity and an interesting service for spreading the Word of God and other religious texts in various languages. The house is also characterized by the reception of groups and, with the help of the Salesian NGO "*VIS - Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo - International Volunteers for Development*" for the cultivation of the countryside with its vineyards and olive groves.

In recent years, the Salesian welcome house has organized numerous initiatives in Beitgemal, including cultural ones, such as concerts of classical music that are very popular with nearby residents, and gatherings of organized groups in the area, such as Scouts, during the summer. Since 1920, a meteorological observatory has also been located in Beitgemal, which sends its weather reports every morning: before it did so for the British, today for Israel.



Panama

## A GREEN REVOLUTION BY NO MEANS NEGLIGIBLE

(ANS - Panama City)

Santiago Corrales Rodríguez is a young past pupil of Don Bosco from Colombia and former President of the EcoClub of the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Panama City. Here he offers his testimony on the current challenge of the environment and its relationship with the Salesian charism.



The theme of the environment attracted me from an early age. During my adolescence, I had the opportunity to participate more consciously in these processes. I reconsidered my position in relation to the surrounding environment and I began to develop an ecological way of thinking, which led me to engage in my own little world. In 2016 I was studying at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Panama. The director of the time, Fr Ángel Prado, started a waste recycling plan in the school in collaboration with the '*Eco Creando*' Foundation. Thus was born the committee for the recycling of our school, which two years later would become the 'EcoClub ITDB'.

Being part of this group meant for me to support my mother, who worked in the Foundation, and to share our concerns. It was my opportunity to share things with her, but also to generate real change in society. I did not imagine what we would

achieve as a group, as a school and as a neighborhood. Nor did I imagine what I would learn and how my environmental awareness and my personal training would be consolidated.

We have installed recycling points throughout the institution. We organized the ecological fashion show. We held a week for internal recycling which collected more than 3,500 kg of material. We enjoyed the ecological walks.

And we managed to get the people of the neighborhood to use our school's collection center.

We have made alliances with companies dedicated to separate waste collection and with the 'Don Bosco Green Alliance'. Being able to act at home, at WYD 2019 our EcoClub took care of coordinating all recycling management for the pilgrims who stayed

in the ITDB. All this has stimulated my personal growth and awakened in others that something that motivates them to be good.

Recycling I also learned that great skills are not needed, but that we can all assimilate this ideal and learn with humility to work as a team.

Through the Don Bosco Green Alliance I was selected as a speaker during last year's United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, together with three young women from Germany, Papua New Guinea and Ghana.

We presented our efforts for the environment from our different perspectives and situations, and it was an opportunity to understand that there is more future than we believe and that we can do more than we think.

Through schools such as the Don Bosco Technical Institute and its EcoClub, and foundations such as Eco Creando, young people can learn to take care of the environment and improve their behaviour. Organizations such as Don Bosco Green Alliance give young people a voice to be heard and to get their message across.

**Source:** Boletín Salesiano de Centroamérica

## Slovenia



## "A REFLECTION OF THE EAST". The story of Servant of God Fr Andrea Majcen, SDB, in an illustrated book

(ANS - Ljubljana)

On the occasion of the Dies Natalis of the Servant of God Fr Andrea Majcen (Maribor-Slovenia, 30 September 1904 - Ljubljana, 30 September 1999), the Salesian Province "Saints Cyril and Methodius" of Slovenia and the publishing house "Salve" have published an illustrated book for children that tells the "missionary adventures" of Fr Majcen.

Fr Andrea Majcen, a Salesian and heroic missionary, is considered the "patriarch of the Salesians" of Vietnam, a country he reached in 1952 after being expelled from China. He remained in Vietnam until the advent of the communist regime in 1976, when he returned to Slovenia, becoming a missionary animator, spiritual director and confessor until the end of his life with forty-four years of missionary apostolate in China and Vietnam and 20 years of missionary animation in Slovenia. The reflections and meditations, collected in his diaries (more than 6,000 handwritten pages), express a profound Christian and religious life and a personal commitment to spiritual growth. In his long and fruitful life,

Fr Majcen fulfilled the mission of being in the Church a sign and bearer of God's love, drawing from the very Heart of Christ that pastoral charity marked by great apostolic ardor and a predilection for young people.

Today his missionary, religious and human history is [collected in an educational comic](#)

book, created by illustrator Juan Juvancic, a Salesian past pupil of the Don Bosco Institute in Buenos Aires, thanks to the collaboration of the vice-postulator of his cause, Fr Alojzij Slavko Snoj, and of the Delegate for Social Communication Marko Suhoveršnik.

The book's illustrator, Juan Juvancic, was born in Argentina to Slovenian parents. He attended Salesian schools and started a family and lived for many years working in Argentina. In 2008 he moved to his parents' land where, in addition to other jobs, he collaborates with the Salesians.

The artist learned about the figure of Fr Majcen only a year ago, on the occasion of the closure of the diocesan process of his cause, but was immediately fascinated by him. He studied his life and via illustrations he tried to narrate significant and amusing events of his missionary actions. In doing so, he used bright colors and action scenes, so that the message that the Servant of God lived and transmitted the Word of God in China and Vietnam was clearly expressed in just a few words.

The comic is also accompanied by a short animated video in various languages, which lists the most important dates in the life of Fr Majcen and summarizes the human, spiritual and apostolic life of the Servant of God:

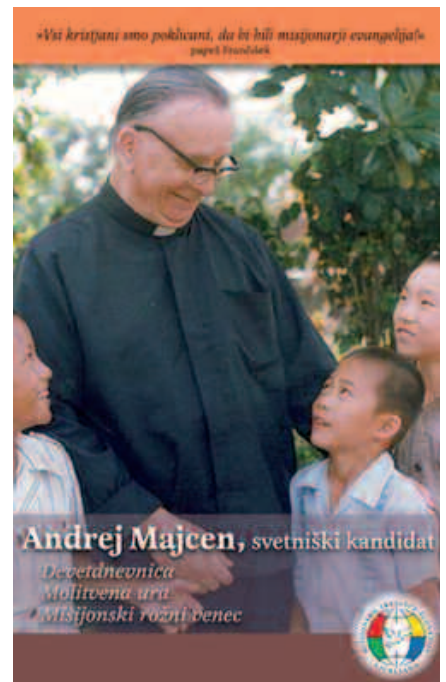
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Italian: [https://youtu.be/-lsAspe\\_g80](https://youtu.be/-lsAspe_g80)

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/sFrq5PNKeCY>

English: <https://youtu.be/q2ZnB-WqSZ0>

Slovenian: <https://youtu.be/IVbjjMXfZDE>







## Vietnam



...CONTINUES TO INSPIRE MANY



(ANS – Ho Chi Min City)



12 December 2016. The Servant of God, Fr. Andre Majcen (1904-1999), called the Don Bosco of Vietnam was a well known fatherly figure during his life time in China, Vietnam and Slovenia. While his cause of Beatification proceeds, new initiatives also flourish from his testimony: Mr. Francis Nguyen, one of his disciples, and the Don Bosco Past Pupils, in synergy with the Salesians, launched a wonderful initiative in HCM City - "*Bista Mai-Sen*" - a vocation training center for rural youth nearby the HCM airport.

There, about 120 youngsters (young men and women) have the opportunity to learn bakery, cooking, and hotel or restaurant skills. This apostolic initiative brings together a service to young people in need and spreads the fame of holiness of "the Don Bosco of Vietnam".

## South Korea



## SIGNIFICANT HOMAGE TO FR JOHN LEE, a Salesian missionary

(ANS - Seoul)

A second film focusing on the life of Fr John Lee (1962-2010), a Korean Salesian missionary in South Sudan from 2001 to 2009, was released last January.

It is a documentary directed by Ku Su Hwan, who ten years ago had already directed "*Don't Cry Tonj*". The film is produced by KBS (Korean Broadcasting System) in collaboration with the Salesian Province of Korea.

The documentary is titled "*The Resurrection*." It features the testimony of about 70 Past Pupils and students of Fr John Lee, who died of cancer in 2010.

Fr Lee was a missionary, a doctor, teacher and animator of the oratory in the city of

Tonj in South Sudan during the difficult years of the civil war.

The producer and director, from 2010 onwards, began to visit the city of Tonj annually and, through these visits, acquired the personal knowledge and trust of many Past Pupils, who narrated their stories in detail.

They then shared their memories of Fr Lee, remembering him in the Oratory or in the school.

Watching the documentary, anyone can perceive the joy and enthusiasm of Don Bosco's educational style, based on unconditional love for others.

In December 2019, the Salesian Province of Korea presented the film at a press conference, informing journalists in advance that





2020 would be a significant and meaningful year for the memory of Fr John Lee.

The Salesians of South Korea, in fact, are dedicating special attention to Fr Lee in this 2020 and, by the end of the year, another documentary on the missionary's life is also planned.

Precisely on the tenth anniversary of his death, his life is therefore retraced, so that it becomes an inspiration for many young people to serve the most needy.

The documentary will be available shortly, subtitled in English. For now, the trailer of the film is available on YouTube.

Also, there is a presentation curated by the Korean Episcopal Conference. And an interview with the film's director.

# Papua New Guinea



## ONLINE MEETING OF PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (but online) - August 24, 2020

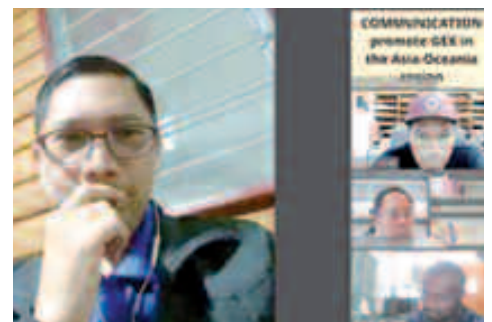
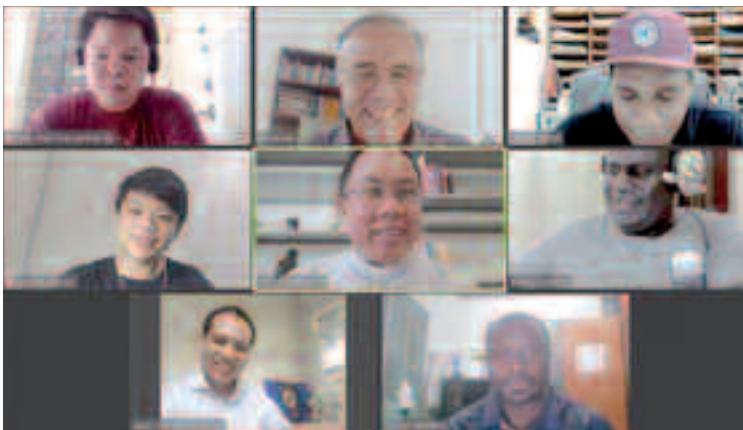
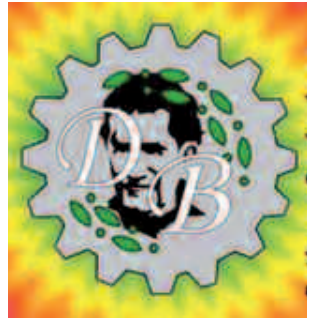
The Past Pupils of Papua New Guinea, with their former provincial, Fr Alfred Maravilla, the new Superior of the PGS Vice Province, Fr Gregorio Bicomong Jr, and the Provincial Delegate for Salesian Family and for the Past Pupils, Fr Angel Sanchez, had a two-hour online meeting with the World Delegate Fr Dominic Nam and with the GEX Regional Councilor for the East Asia Oceania Region.



They talked about the general situation of the Past Pupils and established a first rapport.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the participants expressed their gratitude for the strong sense of "belonging to a larger family".

Everyone agreed that this is just the beginning of a long journey together!





Slovakia



## SLOVAK MODEL FOR CREATING a local union of Don Bosco Past Pupils



(ANS - Prešov)

How do you set up a Center for Don Bosco Past Pupils in your own Oratory?

Can we consider all those who have received a Salesian education in the Oratory or in a Youth Center "Past Pupils"?

And what about the Past Pupils of a school environment?

A local Slovak center for Don Bosco Past Pupils offers an answer to all these questions. The formation of a local center of

Past Pupils in the Slovak city of Prešov began five years ago, in 2015.

«At the meeting of the Educative Pastoral Community (Oratory-Youth Centre) by chance I got hold of the *Don Bosco Express Magazine*, an official publication by the Slovakian Federation of Slovakia. And from this accidental encounter came my question: "Who are the Past pupils of Don Bosco?"», explains Jozef Peklansky.

A few days after his question, the Salesians of Prešov contacted him and, after a year, several meetings and evaluations on the

pros and cons, it was decided to create a new center for Past Pupils in Prešov.

The formation of the Prešov Past Pupils of Don Bosco Centre (Union) began 5 years ago (in 2015). «We communicated with the then Salesian Rector in Prešov, Fr Martin Kacmáry, about the possibilities of support from the SDBs», continues Mr. Peklansky. «We took over our mission and looked for opportunities to engage - so that we could share in the Past Pupils goals together with other components of the Salesian Family in Prešov".

On 8 December 2018, symbolically on the



anniversary of Don Bosco's first oratory and the feast day of the Immaculate Conception, Mass was celebrated for the opening of the new center.

Since that day, 69 members have joined. Most are inhabitants of Prešov, while others live in the Czech Republic or even in America. Many of the centre's members are involved in leading small Christian communities, others are sports coaches, or perform duties at the local church. Twice they have been entrusted with organizing the feast day of Don Bosco on 31 January and have participated several times in the social project "Let's give a smile".

*«Our identity is anchored in the fact that we love Don Bosco and out of gratitude to the Salesians (SDB) we want to pass on what we have received. Our great blessing is that we have great support from the Salesians. We try to respond to their needs and they can feel support in us», concludes Mr. Peklansky.*

**Source:** Australasia



# EX ALLIEVI Newsflash

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

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150 Years of History



150 años de historia



150 ans d'histoire



150 anos de história



ITALIAN EDITION



SPANISH EDITION



FRENCH EDITION



PORTUGUESE EDITION