



Office of the President
World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco
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30th April 2024

Dear Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco,

Preparations are underway for the Extraordinary General World Assembly which will take place from the 2nd October 2024 to the 6th October 2024 in Valdocco, Turin. The theme will be “Journeying Together: Change for Continuity”. The aim of this global event is to gather past pupils and friends of Don Bosco from all over the world to celebrate our charism, our identity, our spirituality, and our mission. It will be a unique moment where many countries from various regions will come together in a family spirit and manifest our love and gratitude toward Don Bosco. There has been an encouraging response from many past pupils and friends from many countries and as places are limited, we encourage everyone to register for this World Assembly as soon as possible to secure a place.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN PREPARATION FOR THE EGWA “JOURNEYING TOGETHER: CHANGE FOR CONTINUITY”

In preparation for the Extraordinary General World Assembly (EGWA), it is important to remember the following dates:

24th May 2024 – Final date to present Amendments to the Statute of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco

30th June 2024 – Final Date to present documents from new and existing members of World Confederation

31st July 2024 – Final Date to pay memberships fees for all years of membership of the members including for the year 2024.

Myanmar: Enriching Salesian Spirituality

A spiritual retreat for the past pupils, under the theme of “Enriching Salesian Spirituality,” was organized by the Salesian Family Delegate, Fr John Gam Seng, SDB, from 21 to 24 April at Don Bosco Spiritual Retreat House, in Anisakan, Myanmar. Due to the political situation, a group of 17 past pupils participated mostly because the young are scattered all over the country.

Besides the talks on Salesian Spirituality and Marian devotion, and the traditional good night talk, a senior past pupil, Mr. Philip Win Maw from Australia, shared about “Don’t sell yourself short and fundraising” through a Zoom webinar.

Just before the end of the retreat, the Superior Fr Bosco Nyi Nyi also gave a one-hour conference, thanking all the past pupils for all the accomplishments they have done for the young and encouraging them to

move forward with faith and hope despite many challenges and tragedies brought about by political crises.

eSwatini – 70th anniversary of eSwatini Salesian presence with Culture Day

On 19 April, a National holiday, the Salesian Culture Day was held at the Salesian High School. Some 800 young people led and prepared by their educators in the past few weeks, enjoyed their traditional cultural dances, traditions, and poems.

The Salesian High School opened in 1953 as the first Salesian presence in this country, 15 years before Swaziland's independence in 1968. Thousands of Don Bosco Past Pupils received their education here, with good numbers of diocesan clergy and many who have made an impact on the social and political life of this Kingdom. The Culture Day was graced by the presence of the Education Minister, Mr Owen Nxumalo, Salesian Past Pupils (class 1985), who attended the whole day event including dancing and sharing a heartfelt greeting with the school community.

eSwatini education minister appreciated his school days with deep gratitude when he and his schoolmates were moulded by the Salesians through daily assistance (including smoking guidance!), weekly Mass, and the strong impact of Salesian culture and values. Mr Nxumalo also appealed to them to maintain the Catholic ethos in the school, where most students are from other Christian denominations. As a Past Pupil he also appreciated the cleanliness of the school campus, which makes a difference in the lives of the young people. His reflection then extended to appreciating the unique Swazi culture, expressed in the language and livelihood and defines who we are.

All participants, including the Ministry of Education staff, Don Bosco Past Pupils eSwatini National Federation leadership (SAPPAS, President Mr Desmond Maphanga) and representatives of local society enjoyed this event held after a long pause of 7 years.

Italy – A new edition of the course for the new Salesian Family Delegates

The Course for the new Salesian Family Delegates took place in Rome and Turin from the 20-26 April, an annual event that is a useful formation opportunity for this position of responsibility, as well as an opportunity to share Salesian spirituality.

A total of 15 Provincial Salesian Family Delegates of recent or upcoming appointment and two people in charge of other Salesian Family groups with a similar role within their group participated.

The Rector Major's Central Delegate for the Salesian Family Secretariat, Fr Joan Luís Playà, led a session on the animation and accompaniment of the Salesian Family Groups. The day also included a meeting with Mr. Bryan Magro, World President of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco; and a round table on the role of the Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Family and the Delegates for specific groups.

Portugal – 28th National Salesian Games: "We are friends! 'I feel good here with you'"

The 28th edition of the Salesian National Games of Portugal were held at the Salesian centre in Estoril from 25 to 28 April 2024. More than a thousand athletes participated in the various tournaments of Futsal, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Swimming and Chess. This event is supported by many educators, staff, parents, students, and past pupils, with the involvement of 155 volunteers. Besides the games, this year's event offers a range of educational, pastoral, cultural and recreational activities: from artistic performances to cultural outings and moments of prayer.

Poland – Wrocław Province Salesian Family Day

Salesian Family Day was held on Saturday, 20 April at the headquarters of the Salesian Province of Poland-Wrocław (PLO), involving 70 people representing various groups. The presentation of each individual

groups took place following the introduction by the Provincial, Fr Bartłomiej Polański. This included the Salesians of Don Bosco, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Association of Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils of Don Bosco, Volunteers of Don Bosco, Association of Mary Help of Christians, Sisters of St Michael the Archangel and Congregation of St Michael the Archangel.

Italy – Celebration of the Centenary of Collegio Don Bosco, Pordenone: an Anniversary of Excellence and Education

The centenary celebrations at Collegio Don Bosco Pordenone continued after the launch on the feast of DOnBosco with an excellent response from everyone. Numerous educational events are the focus of the celebrations including conferences, seminars and cultural events, open to everyone to participate in exploring education as a primary importance.

In the autumn, there will be a day of celebration that will involve all the past pupils of the Salesian school and the city authorities. On this occasion, a commemorative photographic exhibition will be set up inside the Collegio Don Bosco to evoke the highlights of the institute's history, offering a fascinating look at the moments that have shaped its identity over the years. A book will be presented that will tell in detail the history of the house, testifying to its positive impact on the lives of generations of students.

Portugal – Great success for the fourth edition of the "Short Film Festival"

The UCI Cinema room in El Corte Inglés in Lisbon, hosted the fourth edition of the "Short Film Festival" of the Salesian Visual Arts Course on Friday, 12 April. In the presence of many students who filled the room, eight films competed for the various awards: "Special Jury Prize", "Best Screenplay", "Best Cinematography", "Best Editing", "Best Production" and "Best Film". The latter was awarded to "Tília", directed by Emília Dias, Maria Lousan, Matilde Fernandes and Tomás Coelho. The jury was made up entirely of past pupils who have attended the Visual Arts Course over the years, such as Diogo Gonçalves, now a music teacher, Joana Carvalho, a designer, Matilde Alagoa, who specialises in architecture, Rodrigo Moreira, an acting student and Maria Pinto, an expert in plastic arts. Finally, the "Family Award" was given to the Salesians of Lisbon as a thank you for supporting the festival.

Poland – Assembly of the School Boards for Krakow Province

A meeting of the School Boards for Krakow Province (PLS) was held on 12-13 April. The young people with their companions were hosted by the Salesian School in Zabrze. The event had the purpose of integrating the School Councils, exchanging ideas, praying together and developing cooperation among the young Salesians. The theme of the meeting concerned the Salesian Past Pupils. Fr Franciszek Janyga, Provincial Delegate for Youth Ministry, conducted a very interesting workshop on Salesian Past Pupils and how they can continue to actively contribute to the development of Salesian work, because as has been stressed "we are one big family". Workshop participants worked in groups to reflect on how to develop awareness among Salesian school students that they will become Salesian past pupils, and what to do so that they have the opportunity to develop and be formed in Salesian spirituality. Of course, there was no lack of moments of integration and great fun. The event culminated in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Eucharist.

India – Opening of the tenth Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Province of New Delhi

The Jesus the Good Shepherd Province of New Delhi, India (INN) began its tenth Provincial Chapter at the Provincial House on 17 April. The Provincial Chapter, which takes place under the theme: "Passionate about Jesus Christ, dedicated to young people", is attended by 69 members, 54 delegates and 15 observers, including Salesians, members of the Salesian Family, young people and past pupils. The Provincial Chapter began with a spiritual recollection on the theme: to become increasingly relevant, to maintain vigour and enthusiasm, to support the charismatic gift and its expressions.

Malawi – "Passionate about Jesus Christ, dedicated to young people": the eleventh Provincial Chapter of the ZMB

ZMB's Mary Help of Christians Vice-Province had its eleventh Provincial Chapter from 17 to 20 April in Lilongwe, Malawi, with the theme: "Passionate about Jesus Christ, dedicated to young people". A varied and rich representation of Salesians, FMA, Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils and other lay people gathered in the St John Bosco Parish in Lilongwe to participate in the Chapter. The event began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Archbishop George Desmond Tambala, O.C.D., who spoke of various issues concerning religious and the Church in general, stressed that young people are a blessing and recalled the need to review Formation to adequately respond to the needs of young people.

Philippines – The Salesian Family in the Southern Philippines: an ecclesial reality and a living heritage bequeathed by Don Bosco

The Salesian Family in the Province of the Southern Philippines (FIS) has gathered in a spirit of communion, formation and mission at the FMA Mary Help of Christians School in Minglanilla, Cebu. This significant meeting, with the theme "Communion, Formation and Mission of the Salesian Family in relation to Don Bosco's dream at 9 years of age", involved members from different branches of the Salesian Family, including the Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB), the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), the Association of Salesian Cooperators (ASC), the Mary Help of Christians Association (ADMA), Past Pupils of Don Bosco, Volunteers of Don Bosco and Damas Salesianas.

Thailand – A football league organised by Past Pupils

The Past Pupils Association of the Vitthayalai School in Hua Hin organised a football competition called "Blue-White Champion's League 2024", in which 16 teams from different high schools participated. Fr John Bosco Dheparat Pitisant, Rector of the school, had the honour of opening the competition on 30 March. The goal of the championship, which ended on 5 April, was to create a space for former students to meet and strengthen unity between them

Hungary – Salesian Family Day

Representatives of the Salesian Family met in Pélifyöldszentkereszt, for the Salesian Family Day. The meeting brought together all the members of the Salesian Family in Hungary - including the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the Salesian Cooperators and the Past Pupils of Don Bosco – for a day of unity and company. The event began with the solemn concelebration of Holy Mass, presided over by Fr János Andrásfalvy, Superior of the UNG Province. Participants shared their experiences and aspirations from which a collective vision of the Salesian dream emerged, enriched by numerous stimulating anecdotes that show the manifestation of God's work through the Salesian charism. In a culminating plenary session, representatives from each branch of the Salesian Family articulated their reflections on this shared Salesian vision.

Malta – The Don Bosco Oratory celebrates 90 years

On the occasion of the Feast of Divine Mercy, the Don Bosco Oratory on Gozo, Malta, celebrated the 90th anniversary of the first oratory that came from a small Salesian house in Victoria. On the same day that Don Bosco was canonised in Rome, on 1 April 1934, on the island of Gozo, Fr Paul Micallef and Fr Joseph Spiteri gave life to what would become the Don Bosco Oratory. The Salesians then left the island in 1965, but the oratory still remains a Salesian presence, currently led by a Director of the Diocese of Gozo and supported by the Past Pupils of Don Bosco. For the 90th anniversary, Fr Carmel Mercieca celebrated a solemn Mass in the chapel of the oratory, in the presence of numerous former students. Fr Mercieca launched a heartfelt appeal to continue Don Bosco's mission, to save the souls of young people. The Past

Pupils Association and Friends of Don Bosco has also organised a photographic exhibition to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Don Bosco Oratory, collecting ancient images and artifacts on the Canonisation of Don Bosco. For the occasion, the President of the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco, Bryan Magro, was present, sharing this moment of joy and commemoration with all those who gathered for this special occasion.

Thailand – The Salesian Commission for Youth Ministry’s Friendship Camp 2024

From 18 to 23 March 2024, the Salesian Commission for Youth Ministry of Thailand organized the annual vocation camp at the Don Bosco Youth Centre, Khao Takiep, Hua Hin, on the theme of the Rector Major's Strenna 2024: "The dream that makes you dream". A heart that transforms "wolves" into "lambs". The "Friendship Camp" was attended by young Catholics from all regions of Thailand, as well as Salesians, Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils and senior aspirants for a total of 81 people. During the days there were moments of learning and formation on different topics, such as: "Getting to know Don Bosco"; "Don Bosco's Dream at 9 years of age"; "The Salesians join forces to take care of the world". In addition to other Salesian-inspired activities such as treasure hunts, games, theatrical presentations, sports competitions. In addition to meeting the Salesians so that they could learn more about the Salesian lifestyle, the young participants also had the opportunity to welcome Fr Joan Lluís Playà, Central Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family Secretariat, and Bro. Dominic Nguyen Nam, SDB, Salesian Brother and World Delegate for Past Pupils and Salesian Cooperators, who came to visit the Salesian Province of Thailand. Fr Playa gave an encouraging message to the young participants.

Spain – The Salesian contribution to the history of Salamanca

On 13 April, as part of the celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the Salesian presence in Salamanca, an interesting conference was held on the theme: "The Salesian legacy in Salamanca: a contribution to the 125th anniversary of their presence", given by Fr Joaquín Torres and Miguel Ángel Fernández, both members of the Salesian Delegation of Cultural Heritage.

"Salamanca was a forge of numerous Salesian vocations that, together with Past Pupils, Salesian Cooperators and members of the Salesian Family, spread throughout the world". This is how Fr Torres began his address, stating that Salamanca cannot be understood without the Salesians, just as the Salesians cannot be understood without Salamanca.

Italy - Salesian Family festivities in the Salesian Province of the North East

The Salesian Family Festival of the Salesian Province of North Eastern Italy (INE) took place on 25 April at the Salesian Astori College in Mogliano Veneto (TV) . It was a day of reunion and celebration that made this traditionally Provincial Day significant, marking the bicentennial of the Dream at nine years of age. Some 500 people were present, representing the branches of the Salesian Family in the Triveneto: SDB, FMA, Salesian Cooperators, VDB, Past Pupil, Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix, Sisters of Mary Help of Christians and also the Mamma Margaret Association, a group formed by some parents of the SDBs.

Italy – 21st Provincial Chapter of the Lombard Emilian Salesian Province

The 21st Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Lombardo-Emiliana (ILE) Province was celebrated from 25 to 28 April. On 25 April Chapter members, together with the Salesian Family in Lombardy, went to the Shrine of Santa Maria al Fonte in Caravaggio. The Eucharist was presided over by Fr José Miguel Nuñez engaged in the Extraordinary Visitation to the ILE Province conducted on behalf of the Rector Major. There was a significant presence of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the Salesian Cooperators, the Past Pupils Union, the Friends of Don Bosco and the faithful.

Thailand – Conclusion of the Provincial Chapter Thailand

The Provincial Chapter of the Salesian St Paul Province of Thailand (THA) was held from 22 to 25 April. The Provincial Chapter was moderated by Fr Peter Niphon Sarachit and together with the 36 officially elected members, 8 observers also participated in the Chapter, each of whom represented the groups of the Salesian Family of Thailand: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sisters Handmaids of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Daughters of the Queenship of Mary Immaculate, Sisters of the Queenship of Mary Help of Christians, Salesian Cooperators, Volunteers of Don Bosco, Association of Mary Help of Christians and Past Pupils. The participants in the Provincial Chapter worked on the three core areas proposed by the 29th General Chapter (GC29) and reflected on the animation and governance of the Congregation, seeking to strengthen ties with the laity and the Salesian Family, and thus continue to work together for the well-being and future of young people

Rome: Preserving our Legacy: Monument to Carlo Gastini

We continue to encourage everyone to help collect the money for the new monument dedicated to Carlo Gastini and all the past pupils and friends of Don Bosco. Besides being a donor, we are encouraging, companies, Federations, local unions to give their donation for this project. A receipt will be issued by email for every donation that is received for this project. Persons and organisations can remain anonymous when giving their donations and their names will not be listed if they request.

Donations can be sent to the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco Bank account with the following details:

Name: Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco
Bank: Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.
Address: Balzan, Malta
IBAN: MT08LBMA0500000000001440520986
SWIFT Code: LBMAMTMT

There are five categories of contribution: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Individuals can also donate €10.00 or more for this initiative, and they will receive a digital certificate. Each category offers donors the opportunity to contribute at varying levels, with corresponding recognition and benefits.

Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
100€	over 250€	over 750€	over 1500€
Acknowledgment on our websites and social media Special postcard	Acknowledgment on our websites and social media Limited numbered copy of a photo of the monument	Acknowledgment on our websites and social media Special souvenir Certificate of appreciation	Acknowledgment on our websites and social media Special memento Certificate of appreciation Invitations to the opening ceremony
Unlimited	up to 75 spots	up to 50 spots	up to 30 spots

CONCLUSION

May is the month where we celebrate various Salesian saints, and we renew the devotion toward Mary Help of Christians. Let us remember Don Bosco words about Mary when he said, “We owe everything to Her”. These words encourage us to continue our mission with the young and putting all our pastoral work under Mary’s protection and guidance. During this month, I will be also attending the annual Salesian Family Consulta which will be the last one under the direction of the Rector Major Cardinal Angel Artime Fernandez. Let us be united in prayer to ask for God’s guidance as we continue to renew our organisation to be faithful to our Salesian identity, charism, spirituality and mission which finds its expression in actions of solidarity.

In Don Bosco



Bryan Magro
President of World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco