



PROVIDENCE LOVE IN ACTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE BANGALORE SALESIAN MISSION - 2022

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MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Salesian Mission Office, Bangalore!

A billionaire was once interviewed on an Israeli TV programme. He was asked if he had ever been surprised by anything. He said that a Christian man shocked him with his **belief**.

So he began: In the street of Jerusalem one day, I looked directly inside a Church and saw a man extending his clenched palms towards heaven. It was after the afternoon prayer. Everyone else had finished praying, but he remained praying. Curious, I went inside the Church to see the man's face and I saw him in tears as he was praying. I waited patiently until he was done with his prayer. Then I asked him what his problem was. He said that he had an urgent need for \$10,000 for his wife who was in the hospital.

I asked him, "Is this why you are praying so passionately?" He said, "Yes."

Incidentally, I had exactly \$10,000

in my pocket. So I counted the money and gave it to him. Without waiting to thank me first, he prostrated instantly to thank GOD. Then he stood up and thanked me too.

Bewildered by his attitude, I told him how impressed I was. So, I gave him my personal card containing my direct line and email address saying, "I'm impressed by you, anytime you need anything, money...any amount, call me directly and you shall have it." He refused my offer saying, "No, thanks. I won't call you when I need money or anything else. I will always call the **ONE** who sent you."

I am convinced that **you** have been sent by the **ONE** whom we have been invoking every day, each moment. Your involvement in our mission is a proof that *the Lord hears the cry of the poor who cry out to him in their distress* (Ps 34). When you make an intervention to help/ sponsor a child/ youth, and assist our Mission, it becomes the answer to the pleas made by the poor and the tears shed by the marginalized children in our care.

THANK YOU for being there for us and for the children and youth in our care! God bless you and reward you abundantly for every sacrifice you make for our Mission!

Fr Francis Joseph Vattukulam SDB

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The Salesian Province of the Sacred Heart, Bangalore, had its 15th Provincial Chapter from April 24-28, 2022. The Provincial Chapter is the highest deliberative body of the province that discusses and deliberates on important matters pertaining to the growth and development of the province. There was a total of 96 members discussing the theme, "What Kind of Salesians for the Youth of Today?" The Provincial Chapter was held with a view to implementing the guidelines offered by the General Chapter 28 held in Rome. It brought the Salesians of the Province to a soul-searching situation to recommit and rededicate ourselves in order to reincarnate

the Valdocco experience among the youth of today. It called for a growth in Salesian charismatic identity that urgently returned to the primary preoccupation of the Salesians, "*Da mihi animas, coetera tolle*" ("Give me souls, take away the rest"). Don Bosco's primary concern was to save the souls of the youth that came into his care. The chapter discussed also on how best to incorporate lay collaboration in our ministry while giving absolute priority to the young, the poorest, the most abandoned and the defenceless. Several action plans were drawn up to realize the goal set by the theme in discussion.



DEACONS @ 19

It was a sight to behold to see 19 candidates getting ordained as Deacons in the campus of Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. 14 of them were Salesians and the others belonged to other religious orders. There was a large gathering of Priests, Religious and lay faithful present on the occasion.

The entire congregation prayed for the candidates to be anointed by the Holy Spirit to carry out their ministry as Deacons. The rite of Ordination took place during the solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by Most. Rev. Dr Peter Machado, DD, the Archbishop of Bangalore. His grace invited the congregation to pray that the ordained ministers may bear witness to Christ through their life of fidelity and commitment to God and to His people. In his homily, the Archbishop emphasized the role of the ordained Deacons in the church. They are: to preach the Word of God, to assist at the altar of the Lord and to engage in charitable ministry to the poor and the marginalized. The order of the Diaconate is the order of service, of humility and of being completely available to others. After the homily, His Grace prayed over them and laid



his hands upon them as a sign by which the Holy Spirit will fashion the depths of their hearts to be transformed unto the image of Christ who “came to serve, and not to be served.”

The criteria for choosing the seven Deacons in the first Christian community were that they were, “men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” It was their duty to serve the widows who were apparently neglected.

The Deacons are now a step closer to their Priesthood. It is customary to have their Priestly Ordination in the coming months of December and January. Let us pray for them that they may remain men of good repute, become filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom, willing to render self-less service in their ministry.

First Profession

24th of May is always an important day for Salesians all over the world as we celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians, Don Bosco's Madonna. It is all the more important for us as on that day we had the entry of new members into our congregation. God has been gracious to the Salesian province of Bangalore in giving us nine more generous young men who professed as Salesians this year. Although the numbers have come down from last year when we had 17 young men, we have to be grateful to God that we still have nine men committing themselves to serving God. At a time when following the call of Jesus to remain with Him is not the most attractive call in the sight of the world, these young men have



given up everything to become part of the “inner circle of Jesus.” Let us also pray for these brave men, that their desire of giving themselves up totally for Christ and His people may become a reality one day!



Proud Moments: Our Newly Ordained Priests celebrating their First Mass in the Major Seminary at Aluva, Kerala. They studied philosophy in this seminary.



Youthful Offering: Young men who offered themselves to CHRIST FOR EVER through their Perpetual Profession.



HOME COMING- A DREAM OF YEARS

Kuldeep, with an appearance of being a boy of 15 or 16, deaf and dumb, with disheveled hair & tattered clothes, was rescued from the platforms of the Bangalore City Railway Station and brought to BOSCO* rescue home in October 2018. Wounded and withdrawn, he was immediately given adequate medical care and was left to the care of BOSCO.

At BOSCO, he was given good care and soon adjusted himself to the environment. He shared through sign language that he had come from Mumbai, where he had contracted a serious skin infection. Since it was not attended to, the infection spread so much that he left his workplace to come to Bangalore to earn a living and be healed. Having reached the safe hands of BOSCO, he had his ID card made. On further investigation it was found that Kuldeep was a native of Gonda District in Uttar Pradesh, and with the help of the Police his parents were traced. Then in July 2021 Kuldeep was rejoined to his family. It was a new sign language that he used at his home-coming - they were tears of joy!

** BOSCO has 10 foster care/rescue centres in the city of Bangalore for children & youth.*



RECIPE FOR LIFE: HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE

Rohit, an 18 year old orphan from Bijapur, Karnataka, was placed in an orphanage in Belgaum by his elder brother to study till his 10th Std. Unable to clear his SSLC exam in the first attempt, he was referred to our BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre at Sumanahalli in December 2020. It is here that he sparked off his passion for culinary skills, beginning with the bakery.

Due to the COVID Pandemic, for the most part of 2020 and 2021, the bakery training was temporarily halted. At this time, he appeared again for the SSLC exam. Unable to clear it again, he returned to BOSCO to continue and finish his training in June 2022. It was then that Amma Pastries came to his rescue, selecting him as a trainee in their bakery unit. Seeing his skills, he was placed in their production unit with a starting salary of ₹ 12,500/- per month with food and accommodation.

Rohit is grateful to BOSCO and all those instrumental in shaping his future. His journey is an example of success resulting from hard work, perseverance, commitment and perfection!



HOME SWEET HOME! HOMELY REUNION

For some of us life is a bed of roses while for others it isn't. Manjunath Shivappa, a soft spoken, committed, hardworking and a full-fledged trainee as a 2-wheeler mechanic at BOSCO* Life Skill Training Centre, Sumanahalli, is now ready to take up a job.

As a child, Manjunath was rescued by CHILDLINE** in 2011 from a hotel in Bangalore and was in the Government Boys Home for about three months. He was then at BOSCO and thereafter placed in a foster family, from where he completed his 6th grade. While in the 7th grade he ran away but was traced and brought to a care home. He was later placed in BOSCO Life Skill Training Centre at Sumanahalli in August 2019.

BOSCO supported Manjunath's desire to trace his family roots. Knowing that he belonged to the Lambani Thanda in Raichur, he was accompanied by a BOSCO staff who managed to trace one of his uncles. Imagine the surprise for Manjunath to see his father and brother, and for them to see Manjunath alive after 13 long years! To his dismay, he had already lost his mother. The entire circle of his family organized a welcome ceremony for Manjunath as a symbol of acceptance into the Lambani Family. BOSCO also celebrates the reunion of Manjunath with his family.

Manjunath is very grateful to all who held his hand and kept the ray of hope alive during this journey of pain and darkness. He says, "BOSCO always gave me life and hope. Their training gave me an assurance that I can secure a job and become a winner in life."

*** A facility in India to address the woes of children.*





25 Years and On Wings of Fire...

Davangere is a town known as the 'Heart of Karnataka' because it is situated in the centre of Karnataka, a southern state in India. Since it has been a cotton hub, it was popularly known as the *Manchester of Karnataka*. Therefore it has given rise to several commercial ventures and flourishing agro-processing industries in the district. An agro-processing industry easily creates opportunities for employment, and when it is cheaper, it is more than welcome. To the joy of many employers, and parents who always desired an extra source of income, children were a target of cheap labour. As if by natural choice, such a situation gave rise to the evil practice of child labour.

The Don Bosco Child Labour Mission (DBCLM) in Davangere began 25 years ago to address this challenge

of rampant child labour. Facing stiff opposition and even threats to life from agencies that promoted child labour, it was a daunting task for DBCLM to go ahead to curb the evil practice. Seeking assistance from the government, the primary task was to arrest the rise of this menace and prevent further instances. Then there was the need to conscientize the people and then rehabilitate the children rescued from this. Finally these children had to be educated as well.

In an effort to give them a sense of dignity and self-worth, with the blessing of God and thanks to the generosity of our benefactors and friends, we have succeeded in giving these deprived children a home of their own. The home was blessed on 3rd of May 2022.



Our school at Hospet still under construction. We need lot more generous hands to bring it to completion. Our children are waiting eagerly to enter their new school.

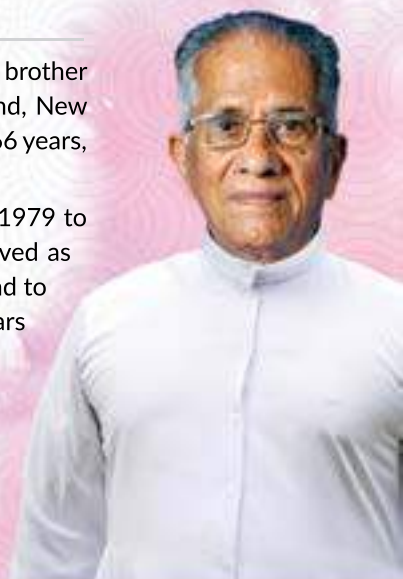
Fr A. C. James Adayadiel SDB, RIP

United in the Risen Lord and with deep sorrow I would like to inform you of the death of our brother and friend, Fr James Adayadiel SDB, at the Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Auckland, New Zealand, on June 22, 2022. Fr James was 90 years of age. He was a professed son of Don Bosco for 66 years, and a priest of the Catholic Church for 56 years.

After having spent his initial years of his priestly ministry in India, Fr James came to Samoa in 1979 to begin some works for the young. Under the leadership of the late Cardinal Pio of Samoa, he served as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese for five years. Then in 2010, Fr James went alone to New Zealand to begin a Salesian presence there. As a priest, he served in Massey and Avondale for nearly eleven years before moving into a clergy retirement home in Auckland in 2021.

Fr James was of immense help to coordinate the efforts of the Bangalore Salesian Mission in New Zealand. His untiring missionary zeal, Priestly fervour and love for the missions will always remain an inspiration in the hearts and minds of those who knew him.

Eternal rest grant unto Fr James O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his zealous missionary soul rest in peace! Amen.



FR FRANCIS JOSEPH VATTUKULAM SDB
(Mission Procurator)

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Please think of the Don Bosco Mission when you make your will!