

ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in Covid times



*Love brings heaven to earth
Charity conquers all obstacles
Hope defeats pain and despair
Faith surmounts every mountain
Humanity excludes discrimination
Self-confidence triumphs over fear
Solidarity overthrows social injustice
Collaboration creates invincible strength*



11 Million Individuals helped
600K Families supported
90 Salesian Provinces in action
14 Groups of the Salesian Family
121 Countries served

Missions Sector
Salesians of Don Bosco



“ ”

“We need to be careful but not lock ourselves in. It is time to roll up our sleeves and do what we can. For the neediest, the forgotten, the most vulnerable.”

- Fr Ángel Fernández Artime SDB -
Rector Major
Rome, 25 March 2020



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Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Missions Sector
Salesians of Don Bosco



Missions Sector

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M C George Menamparampil
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31 January 2021



Dedication

This little collection is respectfully and lovingly dedicated to the martyrs and heroes of the Salesian Family's work against corona virus COVID-19. It is also a token of gratitude to the individuals and organizations that partnered with us in all aspects of our service to the most vulnerable sections of the human family in the first six months of the pandemic.

Acknowledgements

Our world is a better place because of the work of so many who are now part of the text and pictures of this book. This book itself started life as a desire to recognise and honour the multitude of selfless actions taken by so many to step into the lives of the innumerable people for whom COVID has been nothing but devastation and hardship.

The few in this book are there to be the voices of the many in the Salesian Family who continue in the footsteps of Don Bosco to serve their brothers and sisters when and where the need is greatest. The ‘Many’ represented by the photographs in this book give witness to the continuing need for solidarity and justice in our world. They too are deserving of the support of recognition. In particular, the editorial team thanks those who have contributed directly to the text and the photographs of this book. The sources in this are many and, in some cases, wish to remain anonymous.

None of these photos was taken for the specific purpose of this publication. The editorial team selected them from the thousands received from institutions involved in responding to the pandemic. In many cases, the photographer took them for his/her own memories and for sharing their experiences with their colleagues around the world through the daily message of the coordinator. Almost all are amateur photographers using their own mobile phones. Institutions that sent us the material for those messages usually did not provide us names of the photographers. They only guaranteed that all the pictures are our own, with no copyright issues.

We gratefully acknowledge this vast and anonymous army of photographers for their valuable contribution.

Finally, we thank those who gave us feedback on the content and layout of the book - especially Ana Muñoz and N Purushothaman - and R Bara who collated the huge amount of data we collected for the evaluation of our work.

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“God is love; he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 Jn 4:16).

It is for this reason that we recognise, appreciate and love every person regardless of where they were born or where they live or what they believe in.

Message of the Rector Major

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime

With COVID-19 we have encountered situations we could never have imagined or suspected. This pandemic has sown much fear, pain and insecurity, tears and loss in the hearts of the rich and the poor alike, of the famous and the unknown, of the great and the small, in a way that no social, political and economic crises of recent decades has done. Certainly, this pandemic will influence for a long time to come, not only the economy but also politics, culture and the very vision of the human person and the way we live and relate to one another.

Rereading this pandemic as believers assures us that God, through his Spirit, accompanies the history of humanity, even in the most adverse and unfavourable conditions. This gives rise to hope. Christian hope makes our faith tenacious, capable of withstanding the storms of life; it allows us to see beyond every obstacle, opens our eyes and enables us to understand our life and history in the light of God's salvation.

We live in a situation where we are forced to keep our distance and build defensive walls against the virus. We know that - in the midst of this pandemic - there have been shameful situations characterised by selfishness. It is precisely in this situation that the world needs our witness of life that it is our fidelity to the Lord in Don Bosco that helps us to recognise ourselves in the pain of others. In fact, being faithful to Don Bosco today means being actively on the side of the poor, the

marginalised and the vulnerable. That is why charismatically, today more than ever, we are expected to distinguish ourselves, as Salesian Family, by our option for the poor and the excluded, for the abandoned, the voiceless and without dignity. There is no other way for us.

I would like to thank the Missions Sector and Don Bosco Network, who from 25 March 2020, undertook to coordinate the response to COVID 19 among the members of the Salesian Family. This book presents vignettes of what we, Salesians and members of the Salesian Family, have done to reach out to those most in need in an orderly, coordinated and professional manner, with a vision and a strategy, not merely with occasional and random interventions. In many cases we have extended help in a heroic way, even at the cost of our own safety and lives. We also remember the many people and organisations that have made heroic gestures. We think of the health workers who have worked to the point of exhaustion; the people who have guaranteed the essential services necessary for civil coexistence; the people who have taken care of the social order and some politicians, not all of them, who have honestly assumed their responsibilities, with foresight, leaving aside partisan politics.

Sooner or later this COVID 19 pandemic will end. But we cannot forget that there are many other pandemics that continue to develop in the world and that hit hard, though not everyone, and not everyone to an equal measure. Perhaps these do not make as much noise because they seem far away. However we, as Believers and as the Salesian Family of Don Bosco, cannot ignore or forget them. May this beautiful book continue to inspire our untiring commitment to the least.

This book is also a sign of our gratitude to the people and organisations that continue to support our work for the poorest, marginalised and vulnerable.

God bless us all and always!

Presentation

Fr. Alfred Maravilla
General Councillor for the Missions



When the ‘novel coronavirus’ that causes ‘Coronavirus disease 2019’, now popularly known simply as Covid-19, first appeared in China, we watched it from afar. Even when it made its appearance elsewhere, in several countries, there was hope that it could be contained within manageable limits. We were in the middle of our 28th General Chapter when Covid-19 cases reached pandemic proportions.

Less than two weeks after the closing of our 28th General Chapter, on March 25, 2020 the Missions Sector of the Salesian Headquarters in Rome, together with

Don Bosco Network, organised an on-line strategic planning meeting. Thanks to the untiring effort of Fr. George Menampampil SDB, as Coordinator of Don Bosco Worldwide Solidarity Against COVID 19, Salesian Mission Offices and NGOs in all continents, in rich and poor countries,



Image: Our students with some of the masks they produced – Haiti.

some of whom form the Don Bosco Network, all started to coordinate their initiatives to save human lives. This, in turn, unleashed creativity and innovation: Salesian universities and tertiary institutions used latest technologies to develop protective gears for frontline workers and affordable ventilators; Salesian educational institutions, oratories and youth centres developed programmes to provide effective accompaniment to the young amid this pandemic uncertainty. Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and organisations we were

able to respond to the emerging needs specially among the weakest, marginalised and 'invisible' – those who do not even have the capacity to make known their own needs and ask for help.

While the COVID-19 vaccines give us hope of controlling the pandemic, a new strain of coronavirus has been detected prompting new travel bans and widespread concern. But, animated by Don Bosco's missionary zeal, we continue reaching out to those most in need



Image: DBDS-Don Bosco development society, Mumbai, India.

because we are firm on our conviction that we make up a single human family, children of One Father and fellow travellers towards God's Kingdom. Because we believe that "God is love and those who abide in love abide in God" (1 Jn 4:16), we put aside all differences and draw near to others particularly those suffering with no questions asked. Our Faith has untold power to move us beyond ourselves and transcend all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, as well as all petty interests to foster the dignity of every human person.

This emergency is already teaching us important lessons. Above all, the pandemic pulled the curtain back to a hard truth: we neither have all the answers nor the means. Sometimes, we might not be even asking the right questions to respond to an emergency. Hence, we cannot just be satisfied with the good we do. We need to coordinate with others to effectively help more people. This could be intimidating, but it is also inspiring and refreshing. Now we realise that no one should even think 'this is how it's always been done'.

Learning from our past mistakes, the pandemic is teaching us that one needs love, commitment, dedication, and concern for human life in order to extend a helping-hand - even at the risk of contracting the virus ourselves - to the most abandoned, the forgotten, the ones that are not capable of asking for help.

Above all, this emergency is teaching us that it takes humility to be able to collaborate with others as equal partners; It takes imagination and creativity to innovate solutions to an emergency situation; It takes self-discipline to ensure proper documentation, financial transparency and accountability of help received from our donors; It takes the missionary spirit

to realise that crisis situations are fertile moments for initial proclamation; above all, it takes faith to remind ourselves that we launch all these initiatives as concrete expressions of our love for Jesus Christ, who assures us that at the end Life will triumph over death; God, not evil, will have the last word.

This book is a homage to all who have contributed to creating a worldwide solidarity during the COVID 19 pandemic. It is also a recognition of the sacrifices of countless heroes and martyrs a few of whom are recognised here. May this book serve above all to inspire an even greater commitment and action in favour of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable around us, wherever we are.



Image: Antilles.



Image: Chile.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

01
Overview

Overview

M C George Menampampil | Emergency Response Coordinator



Image: Handing over masks to district authorities in Shillong, India.

Solidarity among all the institutions of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the coordination of it at the world level are not novelties. Since decades we have had what is called a “Solidarity Fund”. Salesians in countries that are economically

better-off contribute to this fund. Salesians in economically weaker parts of the world make their needs known. Both sides of this coin are coordinated from our headquarters in Rome. We allocate these funds twice annually.



Image: Daughters of Mary help of Christians handing over masks to district authorities in India.

The decisions on who gets what, are taken by our world-level superior known as the Rector Major and his Council, through a transparent and participatory process.

Since 2016, the Salesians of Don Bosco also have an official, standard Emergency Response Protocol, drawn up by a team of top experts.

It was developed based on our experience of handling natural calamities such as the tsunami in 2004, the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the typhoon in the Philippines in 2013 and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. There is an Emergency Response Coordinator at the Generalate and he works in close collaboration with all the fundraising offices of



Image: Sr. Anna from Auxilium Troncati Home distributing masks. India.



Image: Fundacion Don Bosco, Peru.

the Congregation, particularly the Don Bosco Network (DBN) – a network of some of the Salesians NGO's and Mission Offices.

On 25 March 2020, we held a video conference in which 47 leaders from all over the world participated. We decided to confront covid-19 in a coordinated, systematic manner.

We set up a core team, a separate email ID, social media presence, etc. We wrote to our leadership at all levels with information of all the processes we would follow and inviting everyone one to collaborate. The Rector Major himself addressed a video message to the Salesians of Don Bosco and to 32 other autonomous organizations that belong to what we call the “Salesian Family”.



Image: Indonesia



Image: COVID relief efforts MSMHC Lesotho.

Our institutions in 134 countries, organized into 90 provinces, sent information to the headquarters in the form of data, news, reports, photos, stories, testimonies, reflections and video clips. We took these and circulated them back to our people in the field – through about 300 key persons. Starting on March 26, 2020, a daily message was sent out in five languages.

These daily messages served to : share information; mutual learning; motivation of those facing difficulties; collaboration; provoking and promoting new initiatives and ideas; inspiring and encouraging our personnel to move out and lend a hand while taking all necessary precautions; identification of people, regions and countries in need; precision of needs; precision of resources; fundraising; setting



standards; encouraging local fundraising and reduction of dependence on foreign aid; training of the personnel of new fundraising offices; finding new partners and collaborators; transfer of resources; promoting efficient implementation of projects, speedy reporting and transparency in accounting; spreading messages of joy, hope and self-confidence.

A professional organization (Shoestring Agency) in the USA prepared regular briefings with a summary of all the information received.

We used a variety of tools in the animation of this work. Besides the daily email, presence on Facebook and videos on YouTube, we made music, song and dance into powerful instruments. As well as the two video messages from the Rector Major and another video presentation of our international response, a song was composed with the title HEAVEN ON EARTH – an inspirational, lively song full of joy, positivity and hope. You will read more about it in a separate chapter.

Image: Fr Ismael Hernández visits communities in Matagallinas, Mexico.



Image: Music group at Don Bosco, Bombo, Uganda.

Those that needed external assistance informed the central coordination team of it using a set format. All the requests received and funded were recorded on a table that is shared with everyone in our mailing list. At the time of writing this, we had received over 250 requests and we had helped with a total of US \$ 7,900,000. This went to 31 countries in Africa, 5 in South Asia, 4 in East Asia, 16 in Latin America and 6 in Europe.

A separate table was maintained that compared

the assistance given to Provinces and countries; this helped the donating partners to maintain some level of 'equity' among the recipients.

Our network offered very varied services:

Preventive measures: making and distribution of masks; research, designing and 3-D printing of specialized face shields (PPE) for medical personnel; designing an effective and affordable ventilator; and



Image: COVID relief efforts, Cambodia.

awareness campaigns using a wide variety of tools.

Relief activities: dry food rations; community kitchens; home delivery of cooked food; food and transit accommodation for the stranded; administrative, logistical and physical transport of people to their home towns; kitchen gardens and community farming;

income-generation activities; self-employment, employment generation and personal entrepreneurship; vocational training for employable skills; accommodation for people needing to be quarantined; our schools and colleges as quarantine centres; online classes for students; online-convocation of our universities; apps and websites for access to reliable information; distribution of smart phones



Image: COVID relief efforts, Rwanda.

and tablets for economically weak students; school fees, books and stationery for students; online counselling; spiritual and religious services. Some Provinces moved rather swiftly from relief handouts to the promotion of income generation and self-sustainability of families.

The categories of people we served also varied greatly: community servants such as policemen, army personnel, traffic policemen, nurses and doctors; inmates of old age homes, the elderly living on their own and unable to leave the house; inmates of orphanages; commercial sex workers, transgenders; the



Image: COVID relief efforts reach a remote village in Ghana.

bedridden, including lepers; people in very remote villages; students – academic and VTC; slum dwellers, roadside vendors; itinerant vendors; ethnic minorities (tribals); beggars; the physically challenged; our own employees; construction workers; daily-wage earners; refugees, internally displaced people and migrants; migrants stranded far away from home; home-returned migrants.

Our collaboration is among our 90 Provinces in 134 countries, with at least 14 other member organizations of the Salesian Family, various parishes and dioceses, a large number of individuals, NGO's, clubs, companies, corporations and governments.

We received donations in cash, goods, transport,



Image: MSMHC-Lesotho.



Image: Provisions being distributed in Pakistan.



Image: COVID relief efforts, Nongthymmai, India.

expertise and guidance. We gave as well as received; we donated to the government through the relief funds of Chief Ministers in India and hundreds of thousands of masks in many countries. We also had great collaboration with the media, both print and electronic, both private and State. Most Provinces/countries spent more of their own resources than what they received from abroad.

Our partners included Salesian Mission Offices and NGO's; non-Salesian NGO's, foundations and trusts abroad and local; the government and embassies; dioceses, parishes and religious congregations; corporations and companies, both multi-national and local; supermarkets, shops, bakeries, grocery-stores, restaurants and pizzerias; groups, clubs and individuals – Catholic, Christians and people of other faiths.

Donations came in cash – from as large as a million euros from an individual in Germany to as small as a few rupees in India. Many gave in kind – from as large as tons of rice or thousands of litres of milk to as little as a few loaves of bread, few packets of biscuits and even a dozen heads of cabbage. Many gave of their time, expertise and muscle power – from composing music to maintaining of records, from shopping and cooking to the distribution of food, from unloading trucks to lending their cars. It is this redoubtable army that made this work possible.

The magnitude of our operations at the grassroots level provided us a strong foundation for our work of advocacy and lobbying of numerous individuals and structures in decision-making roles right from the ground



Image: Training in hand-wash, the Solomon Islands.

level to the United Nations. Despite the long months of relief activities and the frequent and close interactions with a lot of people, we know of only two Salesians that contracted the illness and died as a result of this work. Besides all the religious, spiritual and psychological explanations given, it also speaks of the care

with which safety protocols were adhered to. To give exact data of all the work and the interventions made is quite impossible.

The numbers involved are enormous; the data is complex, our human resources limited. You find a summary of some basic data towards

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Our institutions in 134 countries, organized into 90 provinces, sent information to the headquarters in the form of data, news, reports, photos, stories, testimonies, reflections and video clips. We took these and circulated them back to our people in the field – through about 300 key persons. Starting on March 26, 2020, a daily message was sent out in five languages.

These daily messages served to : share information; mutual learning; motivation of those facing difficulties; collaboration; provoking and promoting new initiatives and ideas; inspiring and encouraging our personnel to move out and lend a hand while taking all necessary precautions; identification of people, regions and countries in need.



Image: Help reaches a 103-year-old great grandma in India.



Image: Image: COVID relief efforts, Nigeria.

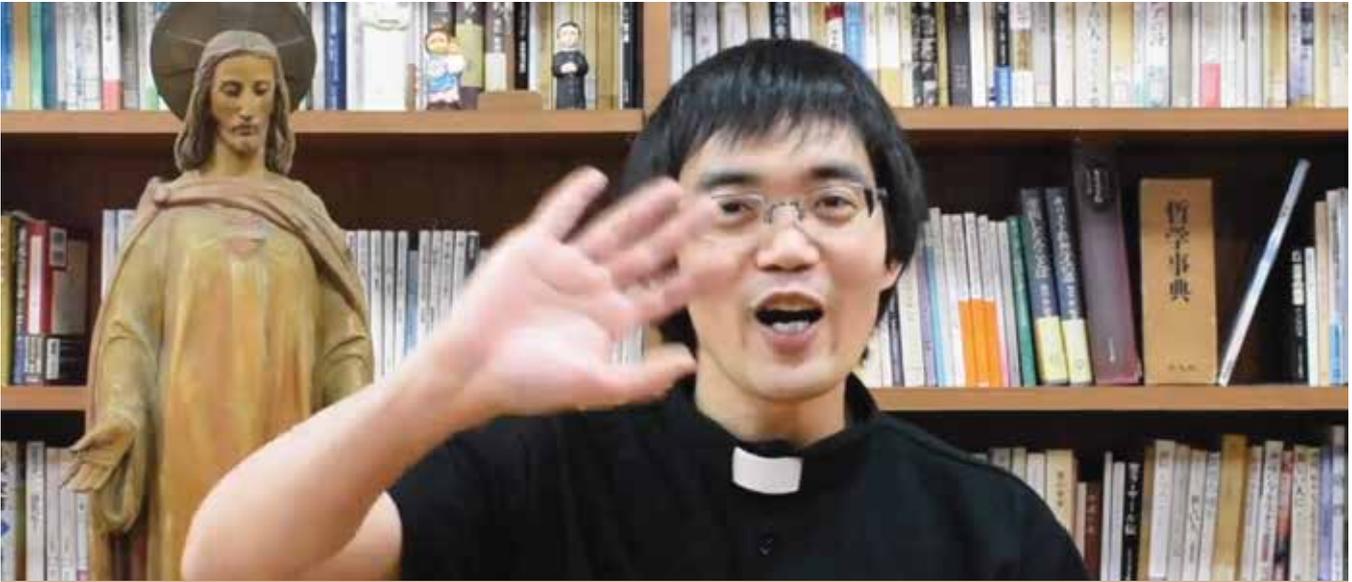


Image: Animation online in Japan.



Image: COVID relief efforts, Medellin, Colombia.



Image: The effort not to forget anyone, Yercaud, India.

the end of this book. Even at the world level, there is no one engaged full-time in the coordination of this work. It has functioned smoothly because a large number of enthusiastic, committed and talented volunteers,

spread all over the world, lent their skills to achieve various aspects of the work. **This coordination will continue as long as needed.**



Image: Provisions ready to be distributed in Spain.



Image: More united than ever, Spain.



Image: COVID awareness efforts, Lebanon.



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Image: Porto Allegre, Brazil.



Image: PPE by Salesian Brothers - the Philippines.



Image: PPE by Salesian past pupils in Hong Kong.



Image: The football field of Don Bosco Tondo, the Philippines, converted into a vegetable garden.



Image: Online radio station in Ghana.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Communication
in COVID times

Communication in COVID times

*Ana Muñoz | Communication Department, Misiones Salesianas
Madrid, Spain*



Image: Bosco radio, Ghana.

Masks, gels and soap wherever you turn your eyes. People do not kiss, do not hug, do not even shake hands. This is on any street, any city,

any country in the world. Coronavirus has changed people's habits, even the way we relate and communicate.

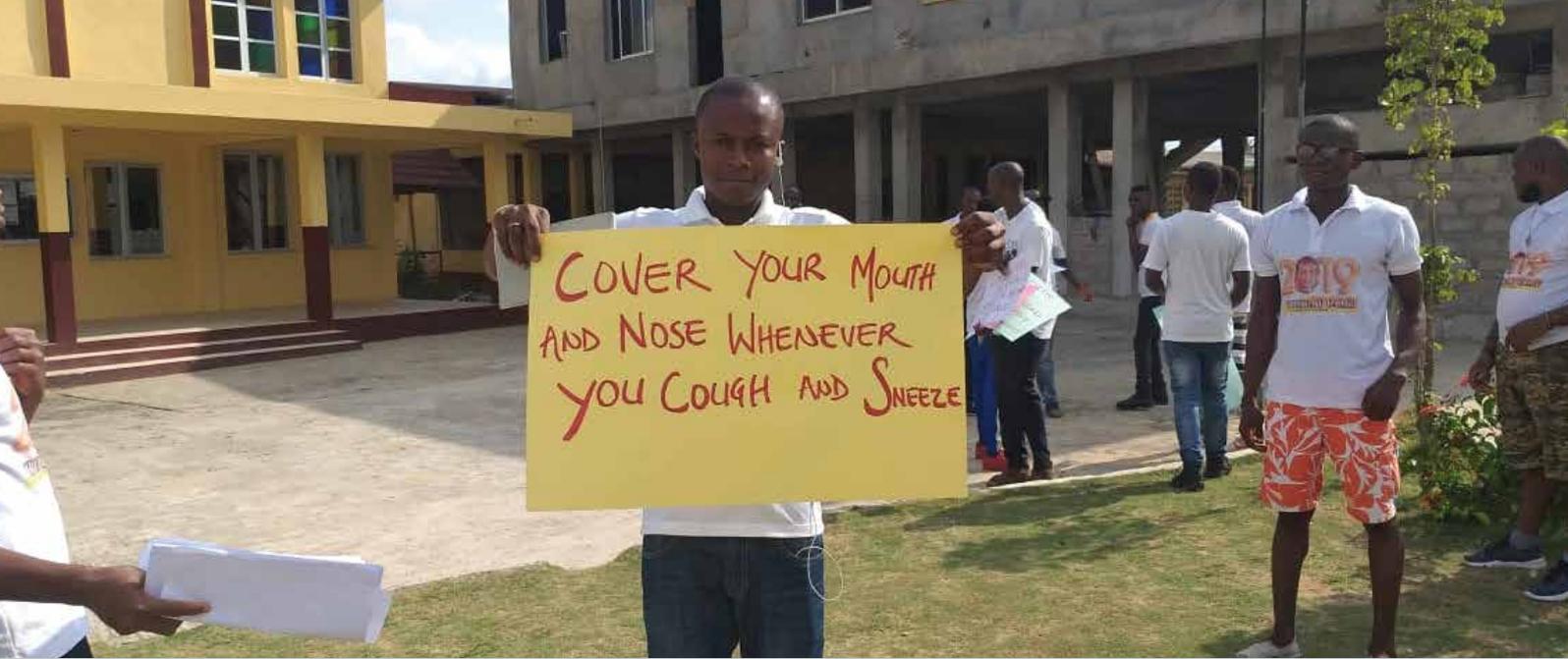


Image: COVID Awareness campaign, Sierra Leone.

We live in strange times. The explosive expansion of our possibilities for communication has only worsened the contamination of its content. Fake news, hate speech, misinformation ... noise and more noise, and some of them extremely dangerous in numerous ways. The new style and content of communication has sown confusion and generated controversies. Misinformation and conspiracy theories are the order of the day.

Salesian communication, in contrast, was simple, direct, responsible and insistent ... "SAVE LIVES!"

Our commitment to help people understand what is happening has resulted in quality communication. We conduct hundreds of programmes and workshops around the world to explain to adults and children alike what this disease is, its symptoms and how to take care of



Image: Training of trainers in Lebanon.

themselves and help others. We use radio broadcasts; we produce folders and posters, and circulate videos. Our message inspires optimism and hope. We even composed a song – HEAVEN ON EARTH - and thousands around

the world dance to it. Communication starts at home. We make great efforts to ensure the smooth flow of information throughout our large organization. Every day we receive an email with the latest covid-related news from



Image: awareness programme in Mozambique amidst COVID.



Image: Live streamed Eucharistic Celebrations in the USA.



Image: Live streamed discussions in the USA.



Image: Students being briefed in Kenya.

around the world. It informs us of the needs of the poor among whom we operate, the initiatives we have undertaken, the local partnerships we have developed, the problems faced and solutions found, the activities we completed and those still in progress and the impact these are making. They are accompanied by photographs, video clips, testimonies, and stories of personal experiences, including those of some real heroes and martyrs.

This internal communication informs and forms. We learn from experiences elsewhere. We are inspired and challenged to take our own initiatives.

The material we receive equips us for our external communication. We post the material on our websites, print media and a variety of social media such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc. We want it known that we feel as one Salesian family.

We share our convictions of the unity of the human family and our efforts in favour of the weakest. This external communication bore the fruit of solidarity. About seven million euros have already been used to mitigate the consequences

funded by how much by which organisation on what date. Local institutions use their media to inform their collaborators and donors. Larger donors receive detailed reports, accounts, photos and testimonies.



Image: Relief effort in Myanmar.

of the pandemic. Our communication, the internal as well as the external, has been transparent. Everyone within the family can see which projects of which province have been

Salesians remain committed to widen our communication to matters beyond covid-related work in the 134 countries where we work. What is not communicated does not exist.

“ ”

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Image: Lisbon, Portugal online support from Solsal for families from a distance.



Image: Food delivered to the needy, Uruguay.



Image: Frontline medical staff in Madrid, Spain.



Image: Provisions for families, Mumbai, India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Don Bosco takes
Krishna home

Don Bosco takes Krishna home

Joy Nedumparambil | Director, BREADS, Bangalore, India

Most migrant labour live from one day to the next. They earn only on the days they actually work. India has millions of them. The Prime Minister of India declared a total lockdown of the entire country, giving an advance notice of merely four hours. Migrants were left with no work, no income, no shelter, no food. They could not even go back home as all transport was also stopped.

Krishna Khakhlari (42) hails from the State of Assam. Since 2015, he worked in Thiruvananthapuram, in

Kerala State. His mother, wife and three daughters remained in Assam. The sole breadwinner of the family, he sent home all he could. He shared a rented room along with eight



Image: Migrant workers returning to their home provinces in India.

other workers from various States. His life took a U-turn with an accident on 11 June 2020. He received treatment for ten days at the Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram.



Image: Migrant workers return home on foot. Chennai, India,

The doctors confirmed that Krishna was paralysed from the waist down and would never again move on his own.

He was shattered to know that he would henceforth only be a burden to his family. Worse, he lay paralysed 3500 Kms away from

home. His roommates, who were not related to him in any way, refused to continue sharing a room with him. All of them moved out except for Santosh from the State of Odisha. The Assistant Labour Officer, Mr. Abhilash, knew Don Bosco's work with migrants. On 22 June 2020, he informed us about Krishna. We visited

him the same day with food and medicines. Krishna had only one longing; to be with his family. We procured a travel fitness certificate from his doctor. We considered transporting him by air. However, flights were irregular;

saw to all the rest. We found an ambulance for the round trip of 7,000 Kms to Assam and back. It is to be noted that Kerala is in the extreme South West of India, with Thiruvananthapuram at the southern tip of the



Image: Distribution of biscuits to the migrants who travelled by bus, Chennai, India.



Image: Reaching out to the Transgender community in Chennai, India.

there were no direct flights to airports in Assam; flights by stages implied doing a quarantine at each break. We negotiated further with the District Labour Officer, who agreed to pay for an ambulance provided we

State. Assam is in North East India, beyond Bangladesh and, by road, one needs to go around that country, not through it. We arranged permits from the governments of six States, each with its own requirements –



Image: A message of appreciation from Chennai, India.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam. We organized food, accommodation and medicines for the trip. We also saw to the quarantine for the drivers on their return from Assam.

A sponsor – KINFRA – paid these costs. On 21 July 2020, they set off – Krishna, three drivers and three caregivers. Six days later, on 26 July,

Krishna was finally reunited with his mother, wife and three children.

The single largest service offered by Don Bosco world-wide is arguably the support to the millions of migrant manual workers stranded in the cities of India, who had to find their way home by whatever means they could – even cycling thousands of kilometres or, even more dramatically, on foot.

“

The single largest service offered by Don Bosco world-wide is arguably the support to the millions of migrant manual workers stranded in the cities of India, who had to find their way home by whatever means they could – even cycling thousands of kilometres or, even more dramatically, on foot.



Image: Mumbai, India.



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Image: Migrant workers waiting to catch a bus to their home states in India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Salesian perspective

04

Salesian perspective

Fr. Miguel Ángel García Morcuende | General Councillor for Youth Ministry



Image: Savio Camp - Los Angeles, USA.

COVID-19 refers us not only to a global crisis, but also to our own crisis. It concerns us directly and therefore obliges us to act with the means we have. This moment has allowed a gallery of courageous faces to intensify their work, providing attention with selfless gestures full of humanity; we contemplate daily a multicoloured

the Salesian educator is asking himself: What is the real and coherent pastoral response in pandemic times? With what challenges? With what criteria? What should our motivation be? If the need to care and be cared for is inherent in the human being, “pastoral care” is now a priority. Care is not just one more ‘pastoral



Image: Aleksandrów Kujawski, Poland.



Image: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians – counselling at Shillong, India.

Salesian canvas of educational-pastoral initiatives to shorten our distance from children, adolescents and young people. And meanwhile,

practice’, but the most suitable practice of accompaniment in this period. Our pastoral care necessarily involves taking responsibility



Image: Good Night Talk. Photo credit - Yair Ignacio Méndez. Children's Home. Colima, México.

for the reality of the other. This demands of us believers, and especially now, the capacity to be in tune with the ocean of feelings that a pandemic provokes. Many people need the relief and company of listening, the oxygen of rest, the friendly face of a smile, the caress of recognition and a shoulder to lean on without fear.

Salesian care leaves no one out. No technology can replace it, because it requires a face, a look,

an encounter, a knowledge of how to accompany. And the first step towards this involves immersing oneself, with the heart of the Good Shepherd, in the reality of people. We love what we care for and we care for what we love.

In view of this, what criteria do we assume for an adequate educational-pastoral action? From where do we look at this complex reality? What do we do with realism and hope?



Image: Students of Caritas School at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Before a preventive awareness building programme.

We dare to say that our evangelising perspective revolves around three indicators of special depth and urgency, which are: creativity, audacity and discernment. I would like to develop these three attitudes, with a few brief pointers:

- 1.** The coronavirus is an opportunity to stop. Now more than ever it is necessary to develop the habit of discernment, a healthy hermeneutic that

promotes the question:

What is the Lord telling us at this moment in history?
What am I learning? What have I lost? What is essential?

- 2.** It is necessary to listen to suffering, to exercise the decentralization of oneself to focus on the physical and psychological peripheries to which we are called as Church.



Image: Youth Group Mass - Los Angeles, USA.



Image: South Africa - COVID Orientation, Sophumelela High School.



Image: Relief efforts in Ecuador.

3. Pastoral care also means to accompany the processes of building up the person: the "Samaritan dimension of faith", part of the pastoral proposal that any situation of pain and personal and social crisis is also an opportunity for re-construction and personal growth.

4. A lockdown saves lives, but it can also help us in that necessary reconciliation with our own fragility. We must help to live the present, but with meaning and with history.

5. All these suggestions can and should be linked to experiences of proximity, practical responses of real situation, involving the Educative-Pastoral Communities:

6. Vulnerability is a protagonist, not only in the lives of those we accompany, but also in the lives of their caregivers, in us. To care is to give support, to accompany, to transmit comfort, serenity and peace; but this is only possible if the one who is preparing to carry out this task enjoys emotional balance and spiritual health.



Image: Relief efforts in Pakistan.



Image: Guatemala.



Image: Tamilnadu, India.



Image: Ethiopia.



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Image: Salesian Family in Action in Thailand.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Salesian family

05

Salesian family

Andrea Ekasit | Thailand

The year 2020 has seen a series of frightful and devastating events, starting with the forest fires in Australia, troubles in the Middle East, and others...but what brought fear and anxiety to all humans in all continents is the pandemic Covid-19. It has touched 218 countries and territories. Besides the pain and death it sowed,

it affected businesses and livelihoods, especially of the poorer ones and the disadvantaged.

As in all other countries, Thailand has also experienced the same predicaments, especially during the months of March to May 2020,



Image: Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians - Eswatini.



Image: Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Thailand.

when there was a daily increase of people infected by the virus. The Thai government put in place various protocols to stop its spread, including home quarantine and night curfew for a full month; some provinces suffered a complete lockdown, which caused work disruption

or job loss to many breadwinners, resulting in loss of income and loss of homes. At a certain point, there was even a shortage of face shields, masks and alcohol for hand-wash. Pope Francis invited all people to be united: we are all brothers and sisters, citizens of the same

world. Leading the prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament [Urbi et Orbi] at St. Peter's Square on Friday, 27 March 2020, the Pope sent out this message - "Jesus calmed the storm [Mk 4,35-41] ...Like the disciples, we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are in the same boat. All of us are called to row together. We have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves alone; only together can we do this."

The Rector Major, Reverend Father Ángel Fernández Artime, invited all Salesians and the

Salesian Family to be the first to help the young, especially those affected by the Corona Virus, Covid-19.

In Thailand, all the members of the Salesian Family came together - Salesians of Don Bosco [SDB], Daughters of Mary Help of Christians [FMA], Salesian Cooperators [ASC], Association of Mary Help of Christians [ADMA], Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary [SIHM], Institute of Daughters of the Queenship of Mary [DQM], Religious Sisters of the Queenship of Mary [SQM] and Alumni



Image: Thailand.



Image: Mumbai, India.



Image: Disciples in action in India.



Image: A shared meal after a shared work, Korea.

Associations. Each has its specific charism but all share Don Bosco's value of 'presence' among the abandoned. They worked together as one family, in close collaboration and coordination, under one banner and one logo.

Very laudable initiatives were launched under the inspiration of the Salesian Provincial and the coordination of the Planning and Development Office [PDO]. The project "We Are All In The Same Boat", took off in full swing. Food, face masks, shields and alcohol,

were brought to those in dire need such as people out of work, the homeless, the handicapped, foreign labourers, the elderly, those in the slums - all without prejudice of nationality and beliefs. Some schools provided medical instruments to local hospitals and healthcare centres.

A team of volunteers went out to identify the needs, drum-up donations and deliver supplies once or twice a week. Houses of the Salesian Family served as coordinating centres. Aside from

this concerted effort, each presence of the Salesian Family also organized initiatives in their respective areas.

This service may appear small in the face of the enormity of the problem; however, they did protect some of the worst affected from extreme suffering, despair and surrender. It bore witness to the value that the sons and daughters

of Don Bosco place on the life of every human being, especially the poorest.

Elsewhere in the world similar types of close collaboration took place with other members of the Salesian family – the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, the Sisters of Charity of Jesus, the Disciples, the Sisters of Maria Auxiliatrix, the Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco, etc.



Image: Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco, Shillong, India.



Image: Food station in Paraguay.



Image: Distribution of provisions in Sri Lanka.



Image: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Ecuador.

Covid-19 strengthened an already existing bond; this prophetic witness will, hopefully, continue to grow.



Image: Thailand.



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Image: COVID relief efforts in Rwanda.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Solidarity
– Art to Architecture

Solidarity – Art to Architecture

Thomas Pallithanam | Salesian Representative to the United Nations



Image: COVID relief program by Salesian sisters of Don Bosco- Laguna Communities in the Philippines.

Even as “Dark Clouds Gathered Over a Closed World”, to borrow an expression from Pope Francis’ latest encyclical “Fratelli Tutti”, silver linings were already visible giving us the “Hope” that there is indeed a light shining

beyond the clouds. As Covid 19 virus, hurtling across the globe, turned itself into a pandemic, so did human kindness, responding to those affected by its devastating stranglehold, throw a global safety net to the most needy.



Image: Provisions, ready for distribution, Burundi.

In Fratelli Tutti Pope Francis spoke also of “The Art and Architecture of Peace” (#228) meaning individual gestures of peace can build an architecture of peace. In a similar vein we could say that the challenge organizations faced was to transform the “art” of solidarity – individual

acts of kindness - into an “architecture” of solidarity – a concerted systemic response.

That was what DB Solidarity vs Covid 19 did when it was set up on 26 March: to establish a global network to tap into the generosity of

those willing to reach out to those at risk from the pandemic. This provided it a moral ground to launch its advocacy to combat the pandemic. The data provided through the network set up at all levels - individuals, communities, subnational,

in five-star conference halls but firmly based on effective action at the grassroots in 134 countries. From Eswatini in Africa to Rajahmundry in India and from other far flung corners of the globe we heard stories of people



Image: South Sudan.

national, and international - enabled evidence based advocacy to combat the pandemic from the local to the global level. This data ensured that any advocacy we did was not hot air blown

of all religions, status, races, castes, coming together and building this architecture of solidarity, by strengthening need-based advocacy. It was this coordinated attempt

spearheaded by DB Solidarity vs Covid 19 that the Congregation's Disaster Response Coordinator presented on July 14th at a Side Event at the UN: Overcoming systemic vulnerabilities and financing challenges for a fairer and sustainable future - Intentional Collaborative Actions to Address Hunger, Unemployment, and Healthcare in the Context of COVID-19, during the United Nations High Level Political Forum.

Salesian Missions Inc., representing the congregation at the UN, has followed this up by contributing to the Inter Agency Task Force for Financing For Development on how to build back better in the context of Covid 19.

DB Tech Africa was in the forefront in negotiating with Governments to design an architecture of solidarity to combat the pandemic and Build Back Better through skilling youth for employment.



Image: COVID relief efforts in roušky, the Czech Republic.



Image: Oratorio Don Bosco Sgo del Estero 4, Argentina.



Image: COB, Bogota, Colombia.



Image: Fundación Don Bosco, Ecuador.

At a national level Don Bosco Ireland joined hands with Mísean Cara and other Irish platforms working in the human development field to press Ireland to honour its commitment to increase the aid budget to 0.70 per cent of national income.

At the European Union Don Bosco International (DBI) was able to highlight the situation of children and youth during the lockdown with regard to education and vocational training. The good practices of "Salesiani per il Sociale" and "Plataformas Sociales Salesianas" find mention in the "stories of hope" highlighted by the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency: SIRIUS's Statement on Policy Implication of Covid-19 on Education, EU Alliance for Investing in Children and protecting children and their families during and after the Covid 19 crisis was enriched by DBI inputs.

Also to be noted is the advocacy done by DBI with the European Commission highlighting the work Don Bosco Institutions have done through VET centres before and during the pandemic and in training teachers for digital teaching.

Even as this is being written Salesian Missions Inc., in partnership with the NGO Committee on Financing For Development and 10 other International organizations with

ECOSOC status, is spear-heading a 9 country survey with the support of Misesan Cara and Don Bosco Mission, Ireland to ascertain the impact of Covid 19 on Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Financing on

marginalized sections in those countries. Our commitment to the Art of solidarity is indeed helping us to contribute to the Architecture of solidarity.



Image: Distribution of warm food in Calcutta, West-Bengal, India.



Image: Caritas sisters, Mexico.

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Image: Gratitude for help received, Cambodia.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Social justice



Social justice

Juan Carlos Quirarte | Director of Provincial Planning and Development Office of MEG (Guadalajara – Mexico)/Coordinator -"Salesian Social America" network (Inter-America)



Image: Ready to eat meals-Tiruchy, India.

COVID made us look - once again - at the fragility and inconsistency of the dominant discourse, the one that says that each of us has a place, is needed, that we are a global community, that we all have common rights because we are all part of a humanity equal in dignity. Certainly, all this is true and conventionally accepted by the great majority of humanity, but how true is it in execution?

How do those in power expect us, as a society, to respond in a docile and effective way to the recommendations to take shelter, not to go out, to do everything from home, when we, with our diversity

of human experiences and groupings, are not even close to having equality of services and choices in life? When there are great structural differences in a society, it is very difficult to ask for equal responses from all. The impact of covid is not equal on all people. Lockdowns are fine for those who have regular work contracts and have the technology to work from home or for those in countries where the government can afford to give out stimulus cheques; but not for the vast majority in the



Image: Facing the pandemic, Spain.

casual or unofficial sectors in poorer countries who depend on daily earnings from work that cannot be done from home. Social distancing is fine for those that live in standard spaces; but not for single-room flats for an entire family, for those in slums and refugee camps. Discarding masks every two hours and frequent use of hand-sanitizers are fine for those that can

afford them; but not for those who do not know where their next meal will come from. Online classes are fine for children who have computers or smart phones and study in schools that have the necessary equipment and expertise; but not for the millions of children that do not have these tools.



Image: Provisions for the marginalised in Yercaud, India.

As Salesians we try to look from the grassroots and act from there. Our work starts from the daily stories of the lives of those whose choices were based on survival rather than on perfect theories. We created the link between those who could give support and those that needed it.

A network of solidarity in which we all felt co-responsible. We practise the principles of our Christian social doctrine; we do not seek mere accumulation of goods or our personal security, disregarding those living on the edge.

Our own security is not enough. We want that we all have enough. We may not all have the best; at least, we should all have the minimum required. If all of us are to survive, we must all give up a part of ourselves. We do not accept just some of us being well off at the expense of others. The COVID pandemic continues to challenge all of society, without excluding us in the Salesian Family, to continue to seek to



Image: Mumbai, India.

reduce injustice. It is out there; it is right before our eyes: in the inequality of services, in structural violence that promotes the interests of the dominant classes, in the discarding of people we do not see as 'productive' in our consumerist paradigm.

We have made a commitment to work for the young people most at risk. We understand that we are moving towards a new form of social life. We ensure that the needs of those we have opted for, are attended to as a priority.



Image: "Don Bosco Technical Center" produced masks in Samoa.



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Image: Don Bosco Health Centre, Akure, Nigeria.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Heroes and Martyrs

08

Heroes and Martyrs

Marco Fulgaro – Missions Sector, Rome



Abraham Lottering is presently 39 years old. He suffered a lot of parental abuse as a young child. He was involved in serious violence as a teenager and was homeless for a period during his early adult life. He migrated to Cape Town and there came to know Don Bosco through the Waves of Change Programme at the Salesian Institute, which prepares youth from at-risk backgrounds for employment. Abraham found a new meaning in life by helping other youth at risk. When the programme had no more funds to pay him, Abraham offered to continue to serve as a volunteer. From a hardcore gangster he was gradually transformed into a committed volunteer.

In 2020 South Africa was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic; a very strict lockdown was imposed. Abraham volunteered to do what no one else was willing to - deliver food parcels to those in need. He got a colleague to go along with him to some of the most dangerous localities in Cape Town. Nothing could stop him. He kept visiting these communities repeatedly, sometimes putting his own life at risk. He is the first to arrive and the last to leave the premises. He well deserves his nickname which he bears with pride, "Mr. Focus"!



Image: Dr. Terence Mukhia.

Dr Terence Mukhia is an associate professor and Dean at Salesian College, Sonada, India. During the COVID lockdown, he organised relief supplies for migrant workers from Nepal stranded in the town. He roped in the members of the Minority Christian Group of which he is a leader. “My conscience was not at peace. I felt I

had to do something, rather than just sit comfortably at home. The turning point was when, two Catholic boys who had just completed their quarantine, came to my house asking for relief,” recalls Dr Mukhia. “They explained how they were despised and neglected by their own neighbours and the

difficulties they faced. “With the help of my Church group members, my family and local people, we organised a distribution of food packets. Initially, we feared contracting Covid-19 as the pandemic had just arrived at Sonada and some families had already been quarantined. I personally thought that I was putting my entire family at risk. Moreover, I suffer from gout in my left foot and am in constant pain. I had to walk to do the shopping and supervise distributions. Soon, resources (cash, in-kind, and services) started pouring in, from pastors, priests, laity, family members and friends. It was a very touching experience as well as an eye-opener.” *“Th*

“This experience made me aware of my weaknesses and transformed my life. God helped me to grow in love and faith-in-action.”

Angelica M. Fesariton, is the Youth Ministry Coordinator of San Ildefonso Salesian Parish, Makati City, the Philippines. She shares her experience: “We had to cancel all our activities, planned with so much love and enthusiasm. It was painful, but soon we were compelled to look beyond our own losses. We realised that some families of our youth lacked even basic necessities. We are a parish youth ministry. Most of us are students; only a few have permanent jobs. Nevertheless, we decided to start our “Happiness Fund Drive”. We sought donations from generous and supportive people, we could bring a food pack to the families in need.” Angelica continues: “As we walked the streets, our hearts were shattered by the pathetic reality of the homeless. We realised how difficult their lives were. We talked about it with our youth leaders. We collected a small amount once again - sufficient to provide sandwiches for the homeless. We strolled along the highways and around railway stations and gave away our simple gifts. “The love that we showed was probably more important than the simple sandwiches we shared!”

Anna Sansoni and Andrea Lapi are Salesian Cooperators at “La Magione” Oratory in Siena. They work at the Hospital of Siena, Anna as a specialist in infectious diseases and Andrea as an internist. Anna says that she had observed COVID-19 way ahead, when it was only in China. She prepared herself to face the shock when it would hit Italy. “The Ash Wednesday liturgy was a few hours before my separation from my family and the Oratory. I needed to stay away from my loved ones for their own protection. It was a real ‘Lent-within-Lent’.

“The sick almost always arrived in the middle of the night, in the dark, when our energies were almost gone. They exhausted the little that remained. Like Veronica wiping the bloodied face of Jesus, we would console the families – a truly painful Way of the Cross.” After a month of her work alone, Andrea joined his wife Anna. This marked the beginning of a period of working as a couple but with a rhythm that was calm, stable, sweet and safe, strengthened by the Eucharist, the meditation of the Word, the ‘Good Morning’ talk read from the Gospel, and the Novena to Mary Help of Christians. On Holy Saturday, with the help

of the hospital chaplains, they brought the Eucharist to the sick. “I hope we shall together seek the profound meaning of what we are living and that, with the Lord as travel companion, our eyes will be opened. Filled with Salesian joy, may we return to Jerusalem with Jesus in our hearts”.



Image: Anna Sansoni and Andrea Lapi.



Image: DR VIVEK SAINI - Alumnus Anti-Covid Warrior.

Dr. Vivek Saini, an alumnus of Don Bosco, has (at the time of writing) completed three rounds in COVID ICU, each lasting a month. He is a Senior Resident at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital, Delhi, which is the largest dedicated COVID hospital in India. Throughout these postings he is quarantined/self-isolated. The worst part is working while wearing the PPE kit. Many have fainted due to heat and dehydration while wearing it. Once you don the kit, you cannot eat, drink water, or even use the washroom till you properly doff and sterilize self. Additionally, the protective goggles and face shield get completely fogged due to the heat and moisture, making it even difficult to see by the end of duty.

Dr. Vivek Saini says: “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 sunshine. The work effort put in by the medical teams throughout the world may never truly be completely compensated.”

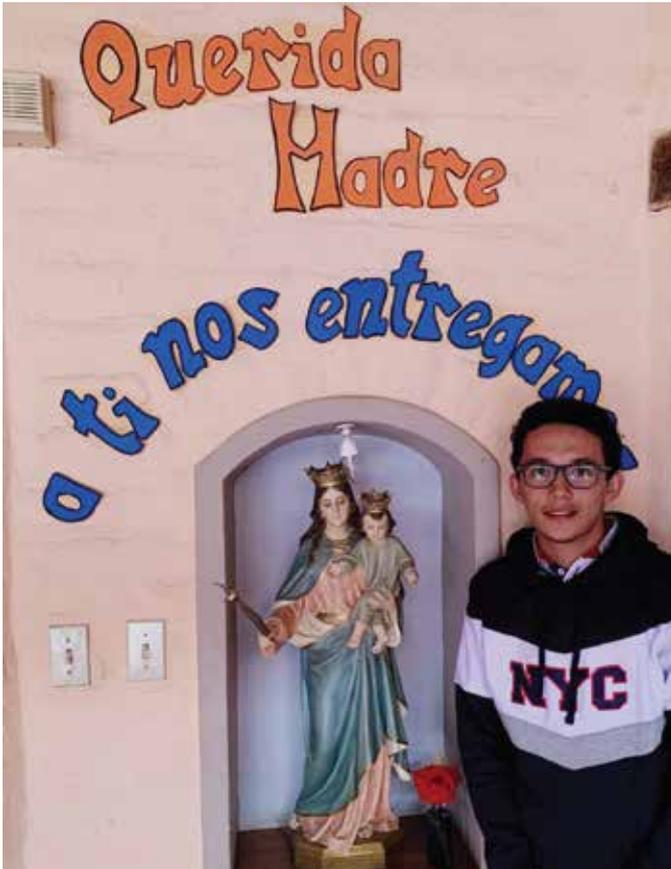


Image: Paul Cuadrado - Ecuador.

Paúl Cuadrado, just 18 years old, became the guardian angel of the community of San Giovanni Bosco, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he was doing his year of volunteer work. The Salesian community was quarantined, each in their own room as many Salesians, including several elderly people, were infected. Paúl was the only one allowed to go out. He alone did everything for the community: shopping, cooking, cleaning the house, washing clothes, distributing medicines and much more.

After about twenty days, Paúl had to go out into the city because there was a shortage of medicines. He witnessed total chaos, with people crying and screaming on the streets at the loss of loved ones. Unfortunately, two Salesians also died in the community: Father Jorge Bustamante and Néstor Tapia. The 24th of May, feast of Mary Help of Christians, was the first moment for the community to come together in the refectory, albeit with safe distancing. "The Salesians told me that they were alive thanks to me and I replied, 'It was God who brought me here to keep you well.'"



Image: Padre Rubinsky.

Fr. Rubinsky Sánchez is a Salesian in Ecuador, director of the community of Machalla. Like many others, he initially continued to live the "new normal". He was far, but only physically, from the children and the faithful, locked up at home to avoid the risk of contagion. Many parishioners were dependent

on daily commerce at the market. From one day to the next they found themselves without work, without money and without food, going so far as to face death, if not from the virus, from hunger. Unexpectedly, a benefactor called offering 500 food kits. Fr. Rubinsky had already experienced the effects of the 2016 earthquake

in Manta. He now went out to the people in the streets, though with precautions, to distribute food and have a chat, slowly involving a group of volunteers to reach out to hundreds of families. The joy of the people was immense, not only for the food but also for his words of hope. Solidarity gradually expanded: 27,000

litres of milk and other donations allowed many people to move forward. “The main challenge today”, says Fr. Rubinsky, “is to stay with the people and continue to be light through the animating presence of the Salesian community.”

Prabhu Sharan, Swati, Thirumalesh and Venkatesh are children, leaders of the human rights club in Boddupalli village, in Hyderabad Province of India. The members of these clubs are



Image: Prabhu Sharan, Swati, Thirumalesh and Venkatesh, Hyderabad, India.

all children, trained and supported by Salesians. They received relief kits consisting of masks, sanitizers, toiletries and food. These three children knew that their families had sufficient provisions for the next fortnight, though they didn't know what would happen after those two weeks. They remembered a few other children who did not have food even for the next day. They travelled to Kollapadukal and gave all their provisions to Mahesh, Akhilesh, Arun and Swatik. They did not know when the lockdown would be lifted. Their own families

would need the food if it were not lifted, but that did not stop them. In front of our office of PARA (People's Action For Rural Awakening) are two statues: one of Ambedkar, the author of the Indian Constitution, and another of Don Bosco. Below the statue of Don Bosco is a plaque with the words, "Friend of youth, teach us". The plaque below the statue of Ambedkar reads: "Architect of our constitution, lead us". These children have shown a simple and effective way to be good people and upright citizens!



Image: The human rights club in Boddupalli village, in Hyderabad, India.



Fr Jose Aymanathil sdb

Fr Jose Aymanathil sdb, of Calcutta Province, India, was the first COVID-19 victim in Salesian India. He was a pioneer educationist who brought free Salesian education to Kolkata's slum children. He already had for thirty years a series of programmes to reach out to the people living in the slums and footpaths. He used methods that were relevant and meaningful, such as free tuition for students, literacy programme, sponsorships for students, nutrition programme for malnourished babies, dry rations for the elderly and even medicines for tuberculosis.

When Covid hit, he organised an uninterrupted feeding programme from the first day of lockdown (25 March 2020) until his death. His collaborator Fr Mathew George recalls, "The feeding programme for over 1500 slum and footpath dwellers had reached its 115th day when the cruel tentacles of Covid snatched him away. He was a multifaceted personality who combined intellectual acumen with spiritual depth."

"He possessed a heart overflowing with compassion for the poorest and suffering section of society. In homage to him, his work goes on!"



Fr Grzegorz Jaskot sdb

Fr Grzegorz Jaskot sdb was in the community of UPS (Pontifical Salesian University) in Rome. When Covid spread in the community, he took charge of helping the ill. Fear wouldn't hold him back. He brought them food and medicines, visiting them every day with news of the outside world and cheerful words of encouragement ... a month of intense and tiring work but full of joy. Fr. Jaskot, despite all his precautions, finally tested positive.

When his condition worsened, he was taken to the hospital. The whole community of UPS started a novena for his health, but after a few days of suffering, Fr Jaskot went to Heaven.

His death is not a tragedy but a glorious event: his sacrifice was not a one-time event; it was an attitude and a habit, cultivated over decades and deeply ingrained in him.



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Image: Children living by the road, Chennai, India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Evelyn's story

Evelyn's story

Obiekwe Evelyn Nonye | Nigeria



Image: Youth in Thailand during a relief drive.

Life before the pandemic in the megacity of Lagos, the most populous city in Nigeria and

Africa, has never been void of challenges; daily struggles to make ends meet and the desire to

stay safe. However, the outbreak of the novel COVID-19 virus marked a watershed in my life, inaugurating another dimension to my daily difficulties. The restrictions were far too overwhelming as I couldn't really fathom why I suddenly couldn't go about my daily activities



Image: Obiekwe Evelyn Nonye, Nigeria.

or mingle with people, most especially my friends and family. It was truly a very tough experience as though a pause button was

clicked on my social life and I lived in fear of what the future might hold for me. I stopped going to work, distanced myself from people, was prevented from attending church and participating in religious and other social activities that gave me joy.



Image: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

These gave rise to great frustration! The frustration of loneliness born out of frequently staying indoors and not being able to mingle with friends and families; lack of proper health care and unavailability of food; price hike in products and inadequate relief measures by the government. In the midst of this

perplexity, the Salesians of Don Bosco came through for me, other young people and families in need within their environs.

The provision of relief materials, counselling sessions, advice and words of encouragement helped me to approach with so much courage what seemed like total darkness. Their support alleviated my distress, pains, mental discomfort and gave me hope and a sense of belonging to a larger family.

The COVID-19 period has helped me to rediscover myself; to be confident, independent, to value moments shared with people around me; it also drew me closer to God. It has been a

very difficult moment for young people who could not get access to support and encouragement during this period. Many people lost their loved ones, their means of livelihood and access to finance for education. I would sincerely like to appreciate the

Salesians of Don Bosco at large for their support to the youths, especially the vulnerable ones, and in particular, to those that helped me, my family and neighbours. Finally, while managing the post COVID-19 effects, I wish the Government, Civil Society

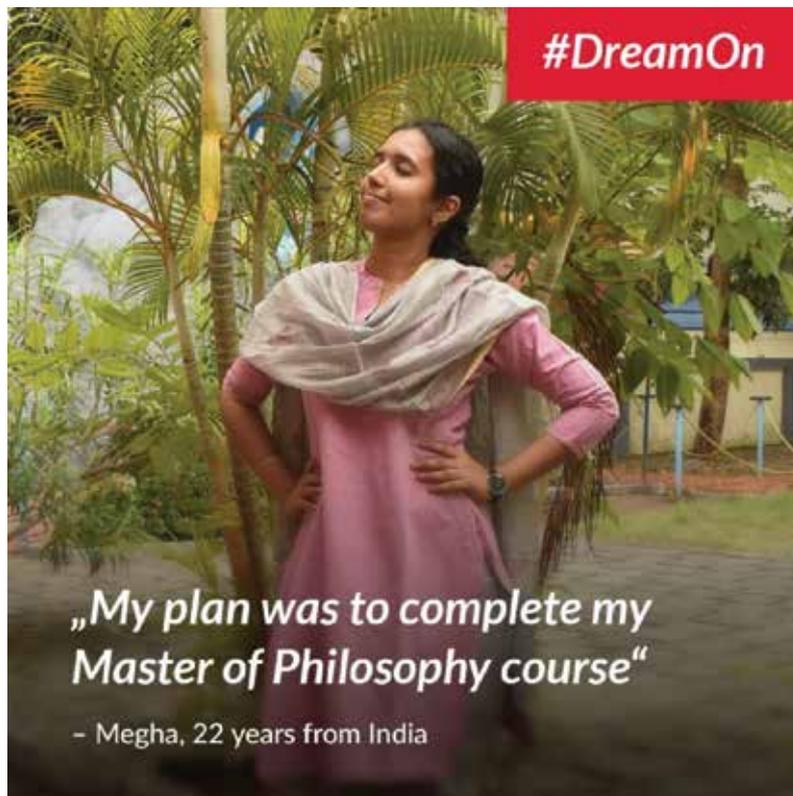
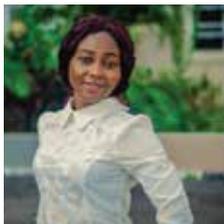




Image: Camp Savio - Los Angeles, USA.

Organizations, men and women of goodwill would come up with an effective recovery strategy with measures such as empowerment programmes to enhance skills and increase employability among youth, improved health system, infrastructure, education, social justice,

and a systematic accompaniment for depressed youth, etc. In my opinion, skills development would go a long way to aid societal resilience and improve the standard of living among youth and their families.



Obiekwe Evelyn Nonye
Nigeria

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Image: During a COVID awareness program in Lebanon.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Heaven on Earth

10

Heaven on Earth

Désiré Irunga | Don Bosco Bombo, Uganda.



Image: Josephine NAMUGERWA, Lead singer of “Heaven on Earth” from Uganda.

I got a message one day from the emergency response coordinator of the Congregation. It was a bolt from the blue as we did not know each other. He said he had heard that I had

some gift as a composer of music; he wanted a song from me. I needed some further explanation. He replied me that he knew the power of audio-visuals. Right at the start of the



Image: Music group at Don Bosco Bombo, Uganda.

international coordination, the Rector Major had addressed a short video appeal to the Salesian family in three languages. It had helped greatly to galvanize Salesians into action.

In collaboration with Juan Carlos Montenegro of the United States Western Province, an international video was made, featuring some 70 people from about as many countries.

It presented beautifully the world-wide coordinated anti-covid work of the Congregation. It went on to be reproduced in nine languages, each of them gaining good viewership. He now wanted a song. He sent me some lyrics. The message was very simple and positive. He wanted music that would reflect the same spirit – dynamic, he said, optimistic, cheerful, lively, enthusiastic and above all, danceable! I took some time out to

HEAVEN ON EARTH

Chorus

One who can't make a heaven on earth
Won't find heaven in heaven above

1. Count your blessings, feel the love
You're in heaven with family
Count your friends, both new and old
They are the angels and saints you need
2. Clap and sing and dance in joy
This is the Lord's day, as every day
Don Bosco with us and Mary, too
We do make heaven right here and now
3. Thank you, God for blessings you give
I have all I need and some to share
We are in heaven right here on earth
We will find heaven in heaven above

Be happy, don't worry
Be happy, every time

Heaven on Earth

Lyrics : Fr George MENAMPARAMPIL, Fr Desire-W INRUNGA

Singers: Josephine NAMUGERWA, Rhonah NTALE

Guitars: Solo + Lead : Fr Désiré-W IRUNGA

Bass: John TWAHA

Keyborad: Andrew SEMAGANDA

Studio: A Records – Bombo, Uganda

Mixing + Mastering: Andrew SEMAGANDA

think about it. However, it was never really in question that such energy and positivity couldn't but result in some true inspiration. I needed to change a few of his words to suit the melody that came to me and he wanted to change a few of my notes and rhythm to make it even more lively. Finally, we had HEAVEN ON EARTH.

The song was circulated first through our WhatsApp contacts. It took a little coaxing at first to get people to dance to the music and record it. In fact, the very first video was of three grandnephews of the Coordinator himself. They mostly jumped around to the rhythm of the music. In fact, the youngest one, just a toddler, kept walking out of view and his mother kept bringing him back in. It was cute and heart-warming! We circulated it among family and friends; young



Image: Count your blessings, feel the love You're in heaven with family, girls on the Kom tribe, Thayong village, Manipai, India.

people saw it and began to take notice. Videos started coming in, at first just a trickle, later a real flood. My group here at Don Bosco, Bombo, Uganda, decided to make an “official” video. We ended up making two, dancing, playing around and having fun, in our traditional costumes. The coordinator posted them on their official channel. After that there was no turning back. Videos came in from around the world, from South Africa to the USA, from India to Vietnam. We received over 70 videos. Volunteers from India to the Philippines to Papua New Guinea became

editors, merging several videos into one, in order to avoid boredom and monotony. Many of these videos had good viewership on youtube. The videos were not merely dances. There were beautiful scenes of love, sharing, fun and enjoyment together as members of a family, a class or a school. Many groups performed in their traditional ethnic costumes in beautiful natural settings; hence it became also a celebration of cultural diversity in the Salesian Family. Very few dances were solo; most of them were group performances; one was a performance by an



JOSEPHINE VILMA

DON BOSCO NAMALIGA

One Who Can't Make Heaven On Earth

Image: HEAVEN ON EARTH by Josephine Vilma - Deromak Film Productions. Directed By Dero Festo.

entire school in Vietnam! In the very best of the original traditions of Don Bosco himself, but using the latest technology available, music and song became once again a powerful inspiring force to many in their times of isolation, loneliness and boredom under lockdown. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The number of videos received was a

better proof of the music and lyrics than even the numerous messages of appreciation that came our way. **(The partnership is still going strong. We already have two more songs – in various languages – with the theme of FRATELLI TUTTI for the animation of groups and communities in 2021. And, by the way, we have not yet met in person!)**



Image: HEAVEN ON EARTH a selection of Youtube Videos.



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Image: Bosco institute, Jorhat, India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Faith meets
Faithfulness

Faith meets faithfulness

Barnabe D'Souza | Director-Don Bosco, Navi Mumbai, India

As narrated to Martin Dsouza

*His disciples said to him. "It is already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."
But he answered, "You give them something to eat."*

The disciples find a boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blesses the bread, breaks it and gives it to his disciples to distribute... in the end they have 12 baskets full of broken pieces of bread and fish!

"I remember the 31st March 2020. Senior Police Inspector, Tanvir Shaikh was with me, discussing the exact timing of the distribution of food that evening. Within minutes after he left my office, he called me back, 'Father, we had better distribute the food right now. The crowd is already huge.' It was 12.30 pm and we had 1500 food packets ready.



Image: Calcutta, India.

“Shaikh called in more personnel for crowd control. Soon after we began, we realised that the queue had around 4000 people. The police were calming the crowd announcing that everyone would get a packet. As we neared the end of our stock, we feared the worst. I whispered a small prayer: “What is going to happen?” I asked the Lord.”



Image: DB Maram donates food to migrant workers stranded due to lockdown in India.



Image: Dimapur province relief efforts, India.

*“Just then a van of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) came by. They saw the huge crowd and asked what was happening. I explained to them about the shortage of food. ‘Don’t worry’, they said, and opened up their van. It was full of supplies!
“Although there were no baskets of leftovers, not a single hungry person stretched out his hand in vain.*

“Our daily need to maintain the distribution was Rupees 60,000. There have been times when I was on my last Rs 100,000. One day when I was at the end of my funding, I sat before the Blessed Sacrament and prayed: ‘I don’t know what I can do tomorrow. You know better. You handle this.’”

“The next morning, I got a call from a friend from Qantas. I explained to him my need. He said, ‘Don’t worry; let me speak to a few people.’ That very day three people donated Rs 100,000 each. From that day onwards, I have stopped worrying about funding because the Lord had evidently taken charge.”



Image: Chennai, India.



Image: Zambia.



Image: Uruguay.

“There are three things I do every morning:

- The Holy Mass where I pray about the current situation, for all the people suffering from the virus, the migrant workers, those who are hungry and for the safety of my staff and volunteers.
- 30 minutes of brisk walk before or after I get into the field.
- Prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour telling the Lord: ‘I’ll take care of the field; you take care of the bank and people’s hearts.’”

“ ”

They said to him,

“That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.”

Where are your five loaves and two fish?



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Image: Bosco Delhi, India.



Image: Collaborators and students' parents in Mongolia prepare the land for cultivation.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

12
Employment and
entrepreneurship

Employment and entrepreneurship

Jerry Thomas | IND, India



Image: The football field of Don Bosco Tondo, the Philippines, converted into a vegetable garden.

Salesians across the globe rose en masse in solidarity to help families and communities affected by Covid-19. It was pleasing to see

several Provinces moving, at the earliest possible, from relief handouts to employment, self-employment and income-generating activities.

They started by helping set up family kitchen gardens, community farms, distribution of seeds and saplings, production and sale of masks, sanitizers, etc., and training in appropriate skills and technology to find employment.

The employment crisis that affects youth in their most productive age beckons us to reorient ourselves and enter resolutely into the



Image: Salesians planted over 6000 trees in Mongolia.

arena of entrepreneurship. We can offer youth the possibility of becoming job creators and wealth generators, who would sustainably use local resources, leverage global expertise and

the power of technology, and produce goods and services that meet the needs of communities locally, nationally and globally, while striving for greater equality and solidarity.

We did our bit to reach out to the young people of Northeast India, who like their counterparts elsewhere, suddenly found themselves without jobs, income and, in many instances, without hope – but with skills, experience and aspirations.

- Our four-part webinar series on ‘Entrepreneurship in North East India: Need and Opportunities’ had successful local entrepreneurs as speakers. There were an average of 85 participants on zoom and more than 3700 views on Facebook.

- We trained a cohort of facilitators to use the incubation curriculum and the micro-enterprise training modules, developed in collaboration with Dhriiti, an organization that promotes entrepreneurs.



Image: Animation of Domestic Workers on livelihood- MSMHC Sisters, Northeast, India.

- Ne-Vent, our incubation programme spread over 8 months, has 13 entrepreneurs. Each entrepreneur has a mentor.
- The 6 micro-entrepreneurship training programmes between September and October had 86 participants, and resulted in 49 individual/group enterprises.
- In partnership with SPREAD NE, an organization working on a unique concept of ‘zero budget food forest’, we have begun training 238 agri-preneurs from 4 villages, and 19 lead entrepreneurs from among educated youth. The guiding principle is respect for the seasonal cycles of agriculture and bio-diversity, without turning need into greed. The entrepreneurial ventures also include agro-tourism and football coaching!
- The custom made MIS captures all relevant data.

To promote entrepreneurs, we can:

- Integrate entrepreneurial inputs into our skill-building programmes and help those with potential to set up their own businesses;
- Create models of kids-elders-teachers-community networked education where kids learn from nature, land, and the indigenous wisdom and practices that helped their communities survive for centuries. They would not then end up only as certified job-seekers but would also become pro-active and productive citizens.
- Go beyond the confines of 'our' institutions and facilitate partnerships. Creation

of employment and livelihood through entrepreneurship necessitates collaboration with lay people and technical experts – a much stressed aspect of Salesian ministry.

It prods us to reflect on the impact of human activity on environment, and create, together with the young, models of environmentally sustainable development – balancing socio-cultural, financial and environmental factors.

We engage in employment generation not because we are business leaders or financial managers – but because we want to be where young people need us. It is an expression of our 'recklessness for the good of the young'.



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Image: Children in Peru.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Inclusive Salesian heart

13

Inclusive Salesian heart

*Raül Alberto Acuña Gallo | Director, Fundacion Don Bosco
Lima, Peru*

"I am proud to be Peruvian and happy to have been born in this beautiful land of the Sun..."; so says a popular song in Peru. However, the pandemic showed us a sad reality: corruption, indifference and social differences that touch on the scandalous. The pride of being Peruvian was severely damaged...When the government decreed a "national quarantine" not even the wildest imagination could foresee



Image: Children in the Solomon Islands.

disaster. The lockdown lasted more than 238 days and plunged Peru into a deep health, economic and political crisis; 6.7 million jobs were lost, and we topped the world in terms of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants. No one in the

country really understood what was happening, while the number of infections, deaths and, above all, fear kept growing. The scarcity of food was booming like a monster over the poor people. Covid-19 in a single stroke



Image: Misión Selva, Peru.

undermined the vital foundation of family survival: their daily sustenance. The crisis turned into an emergency and the cry for food became a scream. Misery galloped across the country and desperation rose among the vulnerable groups (peasants, workers, Andean communities, ethnic groups in the forest, indigenous populations, suburbs, desert dwellers, marginal sectors, refugees, migrants, street children, beggars...).

We Salesians, through our 129 years of service in Peru, have earned merit for our educational work, prestige for our dedication to young people at social risk and respect for our clear preferential option for the poor. Through the Don Bosco Foundation we support our own social works as well as charitable works that are developed by civil society. For these reasons, barely a week after the start of the quarantine, the calls, requests and pleas reaching our ears multiplied, especially from families whose livelihood came from precarious



Image: Misión Selva, Peru.

Image: Tribal woman in Nagarhole, India.

Image: No discrimination! Mumbai, India.

jobs. At the height of the lockdown, we were at the crossroads between going out to help and safeguarding our own health. It was during this period that the Rector Major spoke to us: "We must take care of ourselves, but not isolate ourselves...". And it was heard throughout the country wherever there was a Salesian presence. There we began to realize our own chimera of going out to meet the poor. At the beginning each community was on its own, but very quickly the response to the emergency became a single coordinated force. The Provincial House itself became the refuge for 90 Haitian citizens (including 25 children) who had been stranded at the borders. A group of

young alumni came to help with the collection and delivery of donations. At the formation house, students went out into the nearby hills to bring food. In Callao, we entered the most feared and dangerous neighbourhoods and people welcomed us warmly. In Chosica, Fr. Rolando, 92 years old, showed us how old age can be active, productive and serene. The young Venezuelan immigrants at Casa Don Bosco fasted twice a week and turned these savings into lunches for their hungry fellow countrymen roaming in the city. Outside Lima the response was even more intense: in Piura, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Huancayo, Cusco, Pucallpa... our confreres went out to families in

the sandbanks, rubbish dumps, bare hills, distant valleys, forgotten communities in every corner of the country. But if anyone risked his life to the limit, it was our confreres in the mission in the jungle, among the most ostracized population; there they organized public collections to buy oxygen cylinders. Everywhere we witnessed the truth of Proverb 27:7: "...to a hungry man all things are sweet." We witnessed and supported the 'ollas comunes' (common pots), a spontaneous coming together of the women in communities, each one putting what she could into the common pot and everyone getting enough for her family to survive irrespective of what they had contributed. I am a Proud Peruvian Salesian. I am also proud of my confreres around

the world who, share the same Salesian charism with me, ensured inclusiveness in their own communities, too, reaching out even to other unwanted, forgotten and stigmatized groups like lepers, the AIDS-infected, the homeless, commercial sex workers, transgenders, etc. For us, with Don Bosco, with Pope Francis, we are Fratelli Tutti.

Three lessons:

- **A new and terrible poverty: immigrants in the streets.**
- **The post-pandemic path is solidarity, towards others and among ourselves, with the laity.**
- **Our real struggle is to fight the risk of losing hope.**



Raul Acuña sdb

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Image: Refugees in South Sudan.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

14
Salesians
among refugees

Salesians among refugees

Lazar Arasu | Uganda

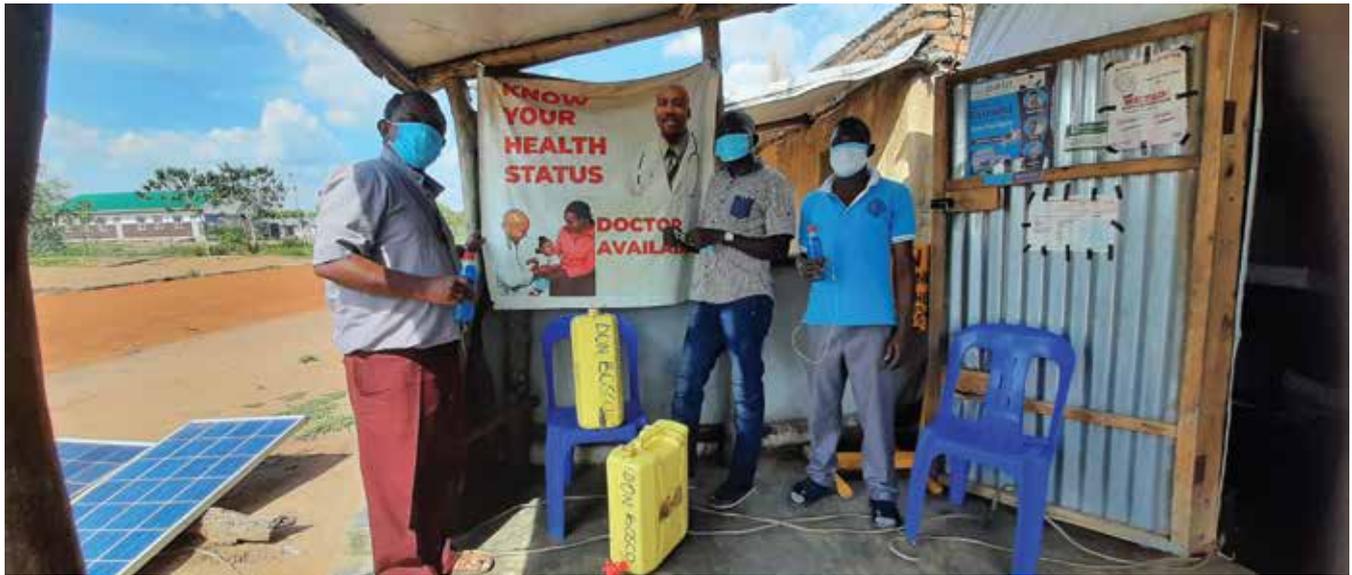


Image: Field medical clinic in Uganda.

Since 2017, five Salesian priests reside right in the middle of the Refugee Camp at Palabek, sharing the living conditions of the refugees and accompanying them in their life struggles. Every citizen of the world was affected by Coronavirus. But the greater suffering was

borne by the poor, downtrodden and other vulnerable sections of society. Perhaps Migrants, Refugees and Internally Displaced People suffered the most. These vulnerable people were already in unfamiliar locations away from their home and culture and were

already in situations of anxiety, deprivation and trauma of many kinds. Adding to these already existing troubles, during the Coronavirus lockdown period, food became scarce for refugees. In the Settlement at Palabek they were given a meagre food ration of about 9 kilograms of maize flour, 7 kilograms of beans,



Image: fertilizer distribution in Uganda.

600 milliliter of oil and a few grammes of salt which should take them through a whole month. This resulted in malnutrition and other

health complications such as ulcers. They became easy prey to malaria and hypertension. In the best of times everything is limited in Refugee Camps. Schools lack minimum basic standards and young people lack opportunities for personal development and moments of meaningful relaxation. During the lockdown schools and youth centres were closed altogether, pushing young people into frustration and stress. The side effects of having nothing to do were teenage pregnancies, substance abuse and various forms of violence and misbehaviour.

We organized young people to spread covid-awareness in the camp. They went around in a van, equipped with posters, banners and a public address system, educating the people about this new threat to their lives. We promoted the talents of Ms Chariet Pinonoya, who composed two songs in the rapp style. She and her friends sang and danced to these songs, turning them into very effective instruments of awareness-building.

Young refugees, students of our vocational school, tailors in the making, were engaged in making Face Masks. They came to be hailed as the pioneers in making Face Masks in entire Uganda. They produced about 20,000 masks for free distribution.

We distributed several tons of seeds of maize, soya, ground-nut and other vegetable seeds. This improved the food



Image: Daily essentials being distributed in Uganda.

supply of over 3,000 families. Several tons of maize flour and beans were also distributed to older and handicapped refugees. We could also give out some other necessities such as sanitary items and clothes.

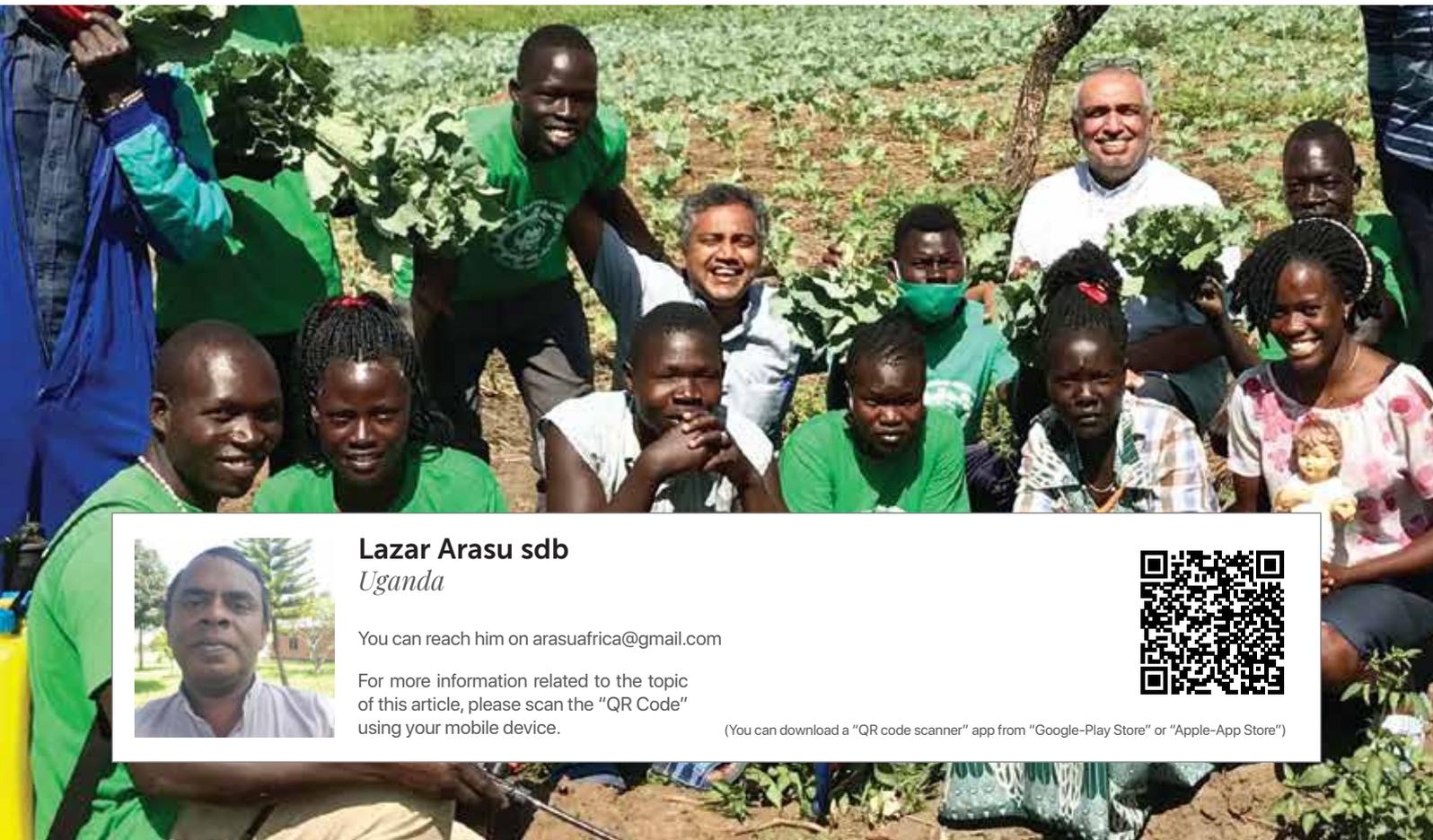
Even more importantly, during the lockdown months, Salesians provided group counseling

and weekend animation for several hundred adolescents. This had a very positive impact on their behaviour. Within the Covid 19 restrictions group study and some limited academic activities were also done.

We must have done some good, as the UNHCR gave us a certificate of appreciation. All these

activities were possible due to generous help from various Salesian Mission Offices in Poland, Bonn, Madrid, New Rochelle, Rome, Dublin and other local partners such as Insieme Si Puo, Trocaire, CESVI and other friends.

God bless the Salesians serving refugees, migrants and internally displaced people in several other countries around the world.



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Image: Child with his precious packet of biscuits, Chennai, India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Salesian donor
organisations

Salesian donor organisations

*Silvia Cromm | Chief Programme Officer, Don Bosco Mondo e.V.
Bonn, Germany, Germany.*

Our pedagogical response to the social crisis follows on Don Boscos' principles of the oratory from 1846, and which is still the model for all Salesian houses worldwide even under very difficult conditions: to create a home and a spiritual community, offer school and leisure activities.

Due to the Corona pandemic, many pedagogical institutions were closed, and children sent back into families, resulting in



Image: AGL-Uganda Palabek literacy.

a lot of emotional stress and problems of violence, all exacerbated by lockdown situations and loss

of income. Our street work for children at risk mostly had to stop. With Corona the children

“With Corona the children disappeared “

The Corona Pandemic and the lockdown consequences have changed the societies' perspective on solidarity with the vulnerable among us. As Don Bosco Organizations, here in Bonn, we are looking particularly at children and youth. How are they affected? What is the Corona Situation doing to them? How can we help them overcome this crisis?

disappeared (as written in an Indian publication) or they stopped being children. Children were not seen in public spaces anymore; they could not meet friends; and they could not play and do sports. Many of them suffered from fears, became restless, discouraged or even depressed.

The spiritual questions regarding the meaning of life and death have become more urgent for many young people and they need assistance

and guidance with these questions. In many countries, with the closing of all schools not only was children's education derailed, they also lost their only meal of the day. This closure of schools increased the number of working children, especially as families had lost their regular income. Girls out of school are particularly endangered in many countries. Even though very creative digital forms of teaching and learning were developed, they could not reach all by far. In any case,

they cannot replace the personal guidance of an educator and the protection a school gives.

In a global crisis of the type the world is going through now, the needs and sorrows of children and youth easily slip out of sight. We need to keep our focus on them, as Don Bosco would have done.

As fundraising organizations for the Salesian work worldwide, we found ourselves in a very uncertain situation. For the first time, our own country was affected by a global crisis; we were in the midst of a lockdown and many people were losing work, losing income.

It was very uncertain for us, whether we would be able to raise support within Germany in this situation.

When Don Bosco Solidarity Covid 19 relief started, we concentrated on food aid, hygiene

material and awareness on Covid19 as first activities. We stuck to our focus on children and supported digital schooling, orphanages and children's homes. We are very happy, that the solidarity of the German People grew with their own concerns and sorrows and we were



able to raise more than 2 million Euro to assist people in need through this crisis. With our campaign #DreamOn we tried to give voice to young people themselves. We asked them to tell us which of their dreams were shattered by the Corona crisis and how they manage to hold on to

their dreams – as we all have to do. It is important that we continue to focus on children and youth. We want them back in school, which will not be easy in many places. We will encourage them to dream on and not lose hope.



Image: Democratic Republic of Congo.



Image: ARS- Argentina South, Argentina.



Silvia Cromm
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Image: At Prayer in the bedroom of Don Bosco at Sacro Cuore, Rome.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Foundation
of prayer

Foundation of prayer

Giovanni Settimio | Rome, Italy



Image: Feast of Mary help of Christians. St. Dominic Savio Parish, Bellflower, USA.

During this ongoing pandemic, many of us have lived and continue to live moments of sadness, loneliness and anguish. As people we are not made to be alone, but these historic

times require all of us to make sacrifices in terms of relationships and encounters with the other. Media and social platforms that allow us to keep in touch in real time with multitudes of

people, even the most distant ones, are not quite enough. There is no substitute for meeting face to face and having a real in person conversation.

We (unwittingly) run the risk of becoming quite narrow in how we experience and understand the world around us. We lose our sense of being part of a wider family, community and world. Our sense of solidarity weakens, especially with

those most in need, as the focus grows with our own real and perceived needs.

For many of us, the world comes to us mostly through our eyes. How well we see is subject to the natural laws of physics and biology: there are those who see clearly and effortlessly, and there are those who face challenges in seeing. Our sight is also governed by distance and the light available.



Image: Online streaming of the Feast of Mary help of Christians. St. Dominic Savio Parish, Bellflower, USA.



Image: Outdoor mass in the Czech Republic.

As human beings, we also speak of being able to see with the 'eyes' of one's heart. This ability can reach beyond the limitations imposed by the laws of physics and biology. As people of faith, we believe we are all held in the loving heart of our Creator, God. The human heart touched by the loving gaze of God is one that reaches beyond itself to that of one's neighbours. It sees the needs in others, especially the needs of the poorest, and wants to act. Prayer sharpens the vision of the Salesian heart for the mission of the Kingdom. The Salesian response to the pandemic draws

strength through and from the prayer of its members and young people. Following in the footsteps of Don Bosco and his young people, the community of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome, young and old, pray together. The young people living in this community, according to their availability, take their turn to pray in the room where Don Bosco himself stayed and worked when in Rome. At every hour of the day there is at least one person whose gaze is elevated towards God to create a fountain of solace from which to draw for those hearts most in need of it.



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Image: After school programme, Los Angeles, USA.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Education
in times of COVID

Education in times of COVID

Joana Frimer | Mission Office, Lisbon, Portugal



Image: Sr. Helen Hartnett, FMA with the students of Lerato in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It is no understatement to say that the Covid-19 pandemic caught all Salesian schools by overwhelming surprise. In some Provinces

the first cases among Salesian students coincided with the steep rise in the infection rate, which led to national lockdowns.

In Portugal, as in other Provinces, our response was swift. It had two pivotal moments: immediately after schools closed and after Easter holidays.

Salesian schools responded fast using the resources at their immediate disposal. Tireless teachers and support staff came together under the supervision of the Pedagogical Directors and Salesian Headmasters. Together, they shaped a solution that guaranteed the continuation of their education, considering the students' and their families' needs, now at home, in quarantine. Some schools used digital platforms where teachers could upload subject resources, homework and exercises while others broadcast pre-taped classes in a set timetable. Music and music lessons migrated to live, online one-to-one sessions and were kept on schedule. Physical education was more severely affected and focused mainly on assigning students exercises they could carry out individually following illustrated schemes or watching selected videos.

The second response was designed during the holidays after an analysis by teachers of the candid feedback from parents and students on the initial response. In this phase, there was a thorough assessment of the hardware and software needs of all schools as well as those of teachers and students. Computers were given out where needed, either loaned by the school or



Image: Students in Cambodia.



Image: Aleksandrów Kujawski, Poland.



Image: Workshop in Chennai, India.

through partnerships with companies who donated them. A digital resource named 'We Are With You' went online on the Salesian website, centralising information on Covid-19 and articles providing emotional support. A line for emotional support, manned by the schools' psychologists, was made available. All Schools reached out to parents and students through social media, through videos of teachers' testimonies reassuring them that "everything will be alright". The Salesian Solidarity Services had

early on assessed the needs of families more severely affected by the pandemic.

They intensified the food support and, at a later stage, also provided computers to their children. Parishes and pastoral services linked to schools and local communities organized online Masses and offered spiritual guidance. They livestreamed religious initiatives and annual events, including a special Easter celebration. Salesian students still had the



Image: Kenya, Africa.



Image: Evening study Boys' Town.-León, Mexico.



Image: Cooking lessons in Germany.

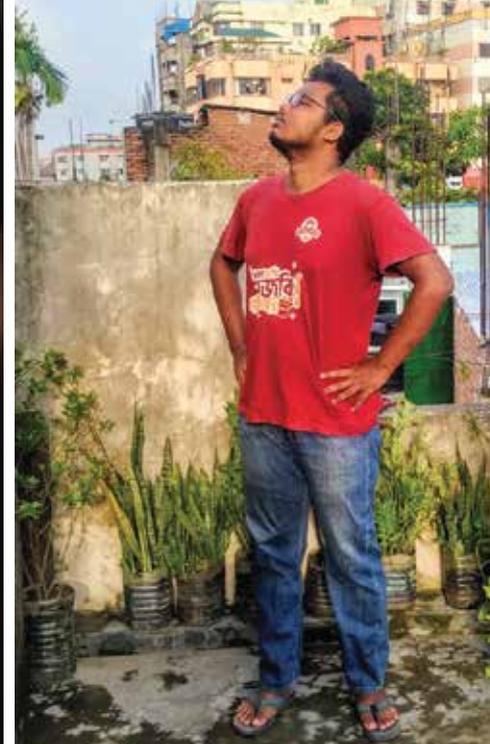


Image: Tonmoy, dreams of a post-covid future, Bangladesh.

solace of a place to turn to, a space to gather in and to pray. By the end of Easter holidays, all schools had in place digital platforms that ran smoothly both for online as well as offline classes, maintaining a healthy screen time limit. Students could access complementary information for further study, exercises and homework. Music and Physical Education classes were included. Timetables were working once again

around the clock. The educational process was uninterrupted. There were adequate tools to support even those with special needs. All students had adapted to and were thriving in this new digital environment: a safe, virtual school that still granted them full access to quality education. The Seniors, the only ones who had attended classes in person as decreed by the Ministry of Education, took their national exams at the end



Image: FMA school, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

of the school year and headed to University as always. As a new school year begins, we find ourselves limited by the Ministry of Education's compulsory guidance regarding conditions for the re-opening of schools with all students in attendance and social distancing.

Nevertheless, our third phase of response is now "covid 19-proof". A contingency plan provides for digital-savvy solutions for a foreseeable quarantine for teachers and students. There will be seamless access to classes online, in different scenarios while complying with all mandatory safety precautions. These include protective equipment installed all over the premises and

the imperative use of masks and hand sanitizer by all. With the grace of God, we are prepared for whatever we may have to face. We are also conscious of the constant new challenges and the need for improvement.

We recall and reflect on Don Bosco's words "education is a matter of the heart". The pandemic took the walls away from the classroom and the church but not their essence and spirituality, the real space where it all takes place: the bond we share in our hearts. With Don Bosco as our model, under the protection of God, all over the world, whether through digital media or a masked presence, every student is assured that,

to the best of our abilities, the Salesian house that welcomes, the school that prepares them for life, the parish that evangelizes and the courtyard where friends meet are still resilient, against all odds, and always within their reach every step of the way.



Image: Don Bosco Cotonou, Benin.



Image: Tribal drive-Nagarhole and Biligirirangana Hills, India.



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Image: Fr. Noel Sumagi (Rector) at the Salesian Community of Dankotuwa engages his team in Lime Plantation. Sri Lanka.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Green and healthy

18

Green and healthy

Savio Silveira | Provincial, INB Mumbai, India



Image: Nagarhole and Biligirirangana Hills, India.

2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year, with the Covid-19 pandemic causing a serious humanitarian crisis across the globe. During these bleak times, it is heartening to

note that the Salesian Family has responded energetically to this situation, launching a massive global relief campaign, under the banner 'Don Bosco Solidarity VS Covid'.

Hopefully, we will soon see the slowing down of the virus spread, and we will move out of the health emergency that we are now facing. Once we reach that point, our efforts would need to transit from relief to recovery assistance. The recovery phase will definitely stretch over several months and will need a multi-dimensional strategy. While medical and food aid would then take a backstep, issues such as mental health, employment and economic recovery will take centre stage. However, our Salesian Preventive System

should prompt us to respond not just to the impacts of the pandemic, but to look at deeper underlying factors, and to address those issues that cause or aggravate such situations.

The UN's environment chief, Inger Andersen, in an interview soon after the pandemic began, pointed out that 75 percent of all emerging infectious diseases come from wildlife. "Never before have so many opportunities existed for pathogens to pass from wild and domestic animals to people," said Anderson.



Image: Szczaniec, Poland.

“Our continued erosion of wild spaces has brought us uncomfortably close to animals and plants that harbour diseases that can jump to humans,” she added. Interestingly – and alarmingly – recent studies by both, Harvard and Cambridge Universities, have also shown the link between the ongoing pandemic and air pollution. The Harvard University study showed that an increase of only one microgram per cubic metre in PM 2.5 (dangerous tiny pollutants in the air) is

associated with an 8 percent increase in the Covid-19 death rate. The study by scientists at the Cambridge University found a link between the severity of Covid-19 infection and long-term exposure to air pollutants, including nitrogen oxides and ground-level ozone from car exhaust fumes or burning of fossil fuels. Clearly then, a critical issue that we need to focus on during the recovery period is environmental care.



Image: Collaborators and students' parents in Mongolia pose for a picture after a tree planting drive.

Our Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, through his 'Post GC 28 Reflection', has called on the Salesian Congregation to 'Accompany Young People towards a Sustainable Future'. In practical terms, he has recommended that we "make our schools, education centres, university campuses, oratories and parishes into educational models of care for the environment and for nature"; that we "expand the network of Salesian institutions to be included in the Don Bosco Green Alliance, fostering the participation of young people in global campaigns on behalf of the sustainability of environmental and ecological causes for the care of creation and human life"; and that "the

Congregation undertake to achieve 100 percent of renewable energy for all provinces around the world before 2032". This call given by the Rector Major sets the ecological agenda for the post pandemic recovery phase.

Every Salesian province and institution needs to accompany young people in striving towards preservation of green spaces, protection of biodiversity, combatting pollution, engaging in climate action and promoting renewable sources of energy. This will contribute in a substantial manner towards ensuring an environment that is safe and caring for all life on the planet.



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Image: 3D printed ventilator valves from Ecuador.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Innovations in
healthcare equipment

Innovation in healthcare equipment

in India, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Croatia.

Healthcare is not a common focus among the traditional activities of the Salesians of Don Bosco. However, in areas where medical facilities are scarce, we do have dispensaries and primary health centres, usually in collaboration with members of the Salesian Family and other Congregations.

During the pandemic, these centres, such as the ones in Nigeria, South Sudan, and parts of India, to list a few, rendered invaluable service to patients who had nowhere else to go.

However, a few unique interventions do stand out. Our institutes of higher learning earned laurels for their inventiveness in designing and producing world class medical equipment at affordable costs. Included here are some examples.

INDIA: Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati-A Low-cost, simple, easy-to-use and easy-to-build ICU ventilator.

Joseph Nellanat
Assam Don Bosco University,
School of Technology.
Guwahati, Assam, India.

Dr. Bobby Sharma and Dr. Vikramjit Kakati of Assam Don Bosco university along with two ex-students of Assam Don Bosco University designed a fully effective, low-cost mechanical ventilator to facilitate invasive, non-invasive (NIV), and CPAP ventilator regulation. Using a built-in control pad, this compressor-based device allows a clinician to control all necessary parameters, including airflow pressure, volume per minute and oxygen

concentration. Auxiliary equipment can be connected to the unit through two universal connection ports.

In contrast to most existing ventilators, this device supplements compressed-air oxygen with oxygen extracted from ambient air producing a mixture of 88-92% oxygen by removing nitrogen. Where no external oxygen cylinder is available, adequate care can be provided purely through ambient air enrichment.

This innovation by Dr Bobby Sharma (**email: bobby.sharma@dbuniversity.ac.in**) as the principal investigator was selected among the top 65 ventilators around the world out of 2639 participants and 1029 teams from 94 countries in a challenge organised by “The Montreal General Hospital Foundation and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center”, Canada.

The Salesian Polytechnic University of Ecuador (UPS), in conjunction with the Private Technological University of Loja (UTPL) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (PUCE), designed and manufactured facial masks for the protection of



Image: Ventilator designed by Assam Don Bosco University.

ECUADOR: UPS - doctors and institutions join forces to support health crisis.

María José Llanos C.
Vice-rectorate for Research
UPS Cuenca, Ecuador
Email: ups1@ups.edu.ec



Image: In the process of designing face shields.



Image: The end product ready to be assembled.

medical personnel. UPS supported this project through the "Youth for a Better Ecuador" Foundation (JOPEM) and the Technical Secretariat for Links with Society.

Other collaborators were: Students and teachers from other disciplines such as biomedicine, biotechnology, mechanics and student managers of Coworking StartUPS, as well as former students of UPS, and medical specialists in the city – Dr. Pablo Peña (Neurosurgeon) and Dr. Mateo Torracchi (Specialist in respiratory diseases); companies in the city such as Señal X Cia. (PASA).

This cooperative work designed and produced face masks and eye protectors using 3D printers. They were donated to the Benemérito Cuerpo de Bomberos de Cuenca, the Ministry of Health (Coordinación Zone 6) and the Red Cross. Our volunteers were also involved in prototyping other supplies for the care of patients such as: ventilators, laryngoscopes and disposable stethoscopes.

Citizens who have 3D printers, acrylic or acetate sheets and PLA material were invited to join this initiative.

COSTA RICA: We made available our skilled professionals and the advanced laboratories in CEDES Don Bosco Salesian Education Centre in Costa Rica.

We set up a Digital Manufacturing Laboratory (PROLAB) for the creation of medical and health protection devices. They designed and

manufactured a model of medical protection mask called "PFP19". It was validated by the National Emergency Commission of the country.

Our centre produced masks in significant volumes for the National Emergency Commission and the Fire Department who distributed them to various health professionals who are in the front line of emergency care.

With specialized software (CAD-CAM-CAE technology) each piece was designed according to the required standards. We manufactured them using the 3D printing machines installed at CEDES Don Bosco's PROLAB.

Our team of teachers and researchers, with the help of volunteers, created an assembly line that allows the Salesian work to deliver fully finished and functional protective equipment.
Email: acubias@cedesdonbosco.ed.cr



Image: PPE gear produced at PROLAB, Costa Rica.



Image: PPE equipment being used by medical staff.



Image: PPE equipment protecting frontline medical staff.

CROATIA: Spalato. The Salesian parish of Mary Help of Christians at Spalato joined an initiative of students from the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture at the

University of Spalato. We gave them access to our 3D printers to produce visors. The 3D printers work 24/7 to try and meet the great need for the protection of doctors and medical staff.

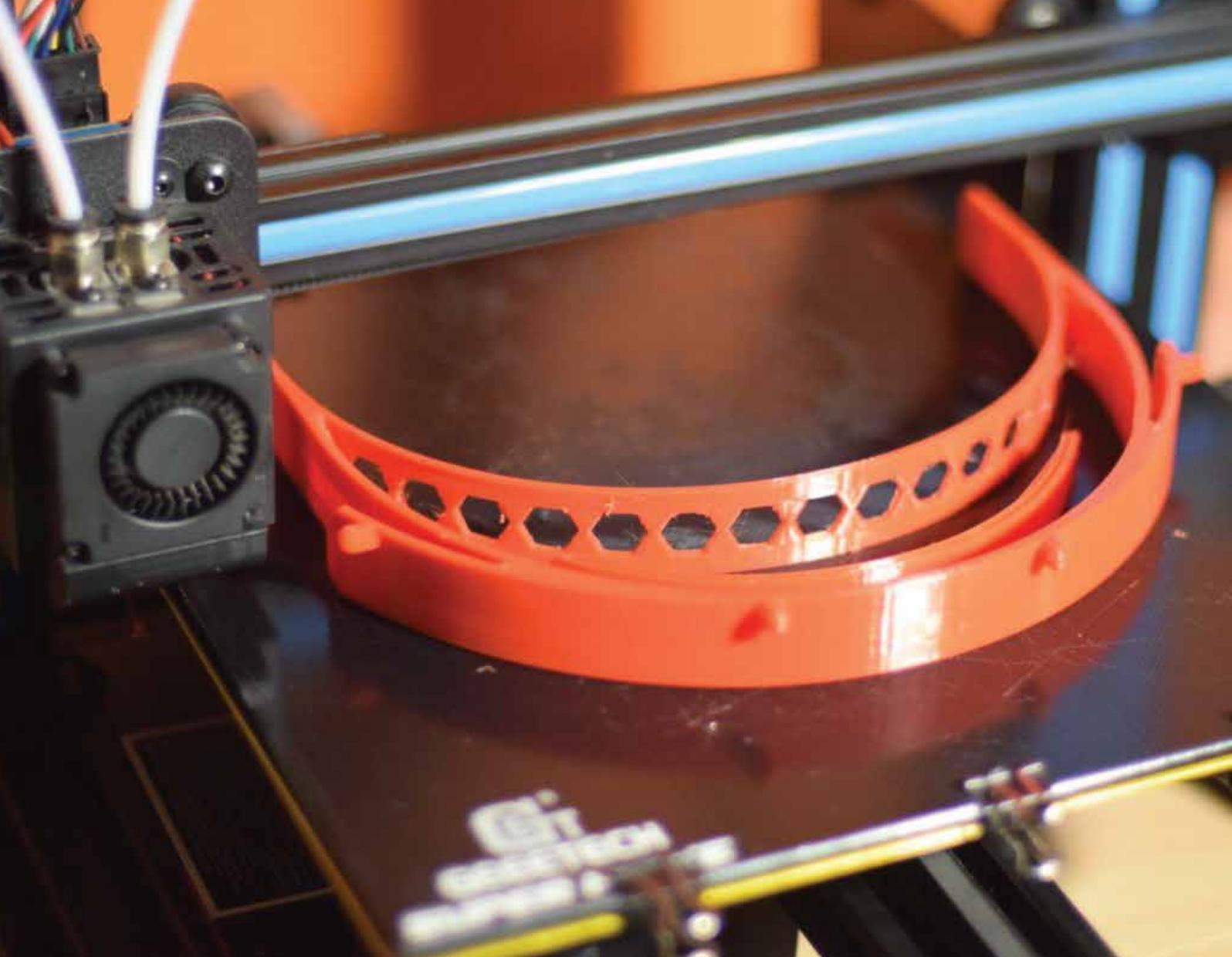


Image: a face-shield being 3D printed.



Image: Porto Alegre, Brazil.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Eyes of faith

20

Eyes of faith

Sahaya G. Selvam | Nairobi, Kenya



Image: AFC - Democratic Republic of Congo.

The initial response of religions to the phenomenon of the Corona virus was a subject of debate, even in East Africa. Evidence suggested that religious gatherings were early triggers for the spread of the contagion in some countries. The meeting of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in Korea, the

Tablighi Jamaat gathering in India, the five-day evangelical worship in France, among others, were claimed to have been super-spreaders of the virus. Most of these events took place when governments had not yet imposed any bans. When governments did come down heavy on community gatherings, some

religious leaders expressed reservation, arguing that religion would be a source of solace in these unsure times. Others, especially in Africa, suggested that religion should be considered under the list of essential services. Eventually, religious institutions had to fall in line and cooperate with governments in the fight against COVID-19. In Kenya and Uganda, the churches were completely closed for nearly three months, including the Holy Week and Easter. By July, they reopened with some restrictions. In Tanzania, the government declared itself to be COVID free, and churches were never closed, though the schools shut down briefly.

Due to these restrictions a possible temptation for religious people was to take a laid-back approach, excusing themselves that now it was the turn of the doctors and medical personnel to act. However, this is not the spirit of the Gospel. To Jesus, even the Sabbath was not an excuse not to continue with the work of the Father: "My Father is at



Image: Truck ni pads - Mobile mass in the Philippines.



Image: Prison ministry in Thailand.



Image: Prison ministry in Thailand.

work until now, so I am at work," He said (Jn 5:17). This too was the general spirit of the Catholic Church in Eastern Africa. The Salesian response in Kenya and Uganda was marked by typical creativity and flexibility. Most of our parishes began to broadcast the daily Eucharistic celebration online. The Small Christian Communities (SCC), or what in Brazil was known as, "Basic Christian Communities," are well-established ecclesial structures in the Church in East Africa. In most of the urban Salesian parishes, the SCC were also animated virtually.

The same was true of the Sunday Schools with interactive online sessions for children. A Salesian

based in Nairobi began to run an online weekly Bible-study session since the lockdown began, which still continues with very great response from young people. The internet is the new agora.

A payoff from COVID-19 is that it has brought some sanity into irrational religious thinking. It has silenced the so-called prophets and soothsayers; it has paralysed the magic performers and miracle workers, who are otherwise popular in Africa. It has invited religious leaders to be humbler before scientific facts. Therefore, rather than moaning the crisis, we focus on God-experience that is at the heart of every religion. It is a spirituality centred around

coherence and meaning, contemplation and God-experience, and connectedness and compassion, that will sustain the religious quest of the people.

To the voices of the prophets of doom that cried out some apocalyptic messages of end-times and COVID-19 being God's response of a curse on the

sinful world, the pastoral presence of the Church proclaimed that God still loves the world! We humans see history piecemeal, God sees the whole. In this context, the Salesian spiritual response to the pandemic is marked by the typical sense of hope and optimism. I wrote in my Easter reflection, published in the most circulated newspaper in Kenya:

“It is the effort of the butterfly as it pushes its way out of the chrysalis that makes it strong enough to fly. It is the struggle of the young chick cracking out of the shell that helps it see the light of day. This is the law of nature. So is resurrection! Humanity will break its way through the present predicament. God will see us through. We will rise again. We will be stronger because of this our collective crisis. The seed will sprout when the showers finally come down” (Nation, 12 April 2020).



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Image: In the hills of Yercaud, Tiruchy, India.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Unsung warriors

21

Unsung warriors

Job Puthenpura | INH India



Image: Millions of workers on foot to their hometowns, India.

On 24 March 2020, the Indian Prime Minister declared a 14-day lockdown with just a 4-hour notice. Everyone and everything came to an abrupt halt. For the millions, for whom life was always a hand to mouth existence, the lockdown turned into a living hell. With the

abrupt stoppage of all sources of income, not knowing where the next morsel of food would come from and devoid of any possibility for social distancing due to insufficient living space, life became a nightmare. The State had absolutely no plans in place to address the

misery it had brought on its citizens. When the initial lockdown was extended to an indefinite period, desperation took on tragic proportions. People broke out from their forced confinements and literally hit the roads, children in tow, with whatever belongings they could carry. They began the long trek to their native villages, often as far away as a thousand kilometers and more. Social media was full of

tragic stories of the hungry, exhausted humans dying on the roads, meeting with horrible accidents and being brutalized by the state through its law enforcement machinery for breaking the lockdown rules.

But it was also the time when ordinary citizens rose as a nation to come to the help of the hapless population. There was the daily heroism of individuals, families, organizations, residential complexes spontaneously coming together to help those trudging along the road. Every road leading out of cities became a “road from Jerusalem to Jericho” where a million “Samaritans” redeemed the soul of the nation, proving to the whole world and to one another that humanity is indeed alive, even as the State turned itself into a callous spectator.

The Samaritan asked the innkeeper to keep a record of all he spent; he himself did not blow his trumpet to say he had saved a human life. The true heroes of anti-covid work are the millions who did what they could, unseen, unsung and unrewarded.



Image: Meals for the workers on the go, India.



Image: Special food kiosks were created to provide meals for the workers, India.



Image: Meals on the go, India.

Cutting across ideologies, religions, racial barriers, geographies, class and caste divides, the world witnessed an upsurge in the human capacity to empathize and reach out to the less fortunate.

Think of Ameer Mohammad, a young Muslim staff member of the Salesian project in India - 'Child Friendly Cities' – bringing together his friends and burying more than seventy people – women and men, who died of Covid 19, when the State had completely abdicated its responsibility of taking care of the dead. His compassionate and daring initiative motivated over half a dozen groups of volunteers to do likewise. Covid was viral; anti-covid work went viral, too.

In Peru women in remote areas came together to launch their 'Community Pots' (Ollas Comunes), each one putting in what they could and everyone having enough to eat, no matter what they had put in. In the Philippines Salesian youth groups collected small donations to hand out sandwiches to

the homeless. There was networking at all levels: Individuals, communities, subnational, national, and international. Women and men, children, the young and the old came together to identify those in need and, having contributed their mite, to search and find where additional help could come from.

In a tiny country like Eswatini (previously called Swaziland) the efforts of the MSMHC Sisters inspired and brought together donors who were manual workers, police officials, teachers, businesses, former ministers, and ambassadors. They were Catholics, Christians, Hindus,

Muslims, non-believers. Some contributed their hundreds of thousands, some others their “all”, their widow’s mite, a dozen heads of cabbage.

In Europe Salesians left cartons near checkout counters in supermarkets labelled “For the covid poor”; shoppers donated bread, cereals and canned goods, unregistered, unrecorded.

Millions of dollars’ worth of services rendered by millions of Samaritans, bringing hope and strength where despair would have taken its inevitable toll; people of good will who in the words of Pope Francis were capable of seeing in their neighbour, a sister, a brother.



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Image: Young volunteers on the move-Makati, the Philippines.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Young volunteers under COVID

Young volunteers under COVID

*Juan Carlos Montenegro | Salesian Volunteer Coordinator,
United States western province*



As the pandemic continues, it is important to assess where young people are and how they have coped. This survey was created on the hypothesis that volunteering can help the well-being of young people during these times of pandemic. We asked for contributions from volunteers who served during the pandemic at summer camps in Bellflower and Boyle Heights (urban areas of Los Angeles, California). To complete the survey with those who have not volunteered we asked them to send it to two of their friends who were not involved in our summer programs. Some of the results of this research shed light

on what is happening to young people in this period of the pandemic. The people who benefited from this research were school administrators, teachers, parents, youth ministers, and others in contact with young people. Here are some essential details based on the analysis conducted:

Self-awareness - If young people are accompanied during this pandemic, there is a significant opportunity to help them become

more aware of who they are and how they react in situations such as those they have experienced.

Closeness within the family - young people need support, especially during this time of pandemic. It is recommended that families create some kind of routine, where the whole family can share time together. Many times, just playing video games or "hanging out" with them does make a difference. Take an interest



Image: Young Salesians volunteer their services in Korea.

in their hobbies and find out how you can be a part of them.

Conflict resolution – this pandemic period has compelled us to be together at home, without a break for a long period of time. This prolonged and exclusive proximity could create conflicts. This can be an excellent opportunity to practice conflict resolution techniques and empathy. Death and uncertainty are the greatest fears of young people during this pandemic; this is an excellent opportunity to help our

young people deal with their fears. Anxiety and depression are words that we should be aware of. Many young people suffer from these problems. From our role as school administrators, non-profit organizations and churches we should ask ourselves what we are doing to support our young people who are facing these situations. Especially now during quarantine.

Acknowledgement – young people who have grown up with everything, not lacking any



Image: Savio Food pantry. St. Dominic Savio Parish, Bellflower, USA.



Image: Youth of Dungalpitiaya support to set up vegetable gardens Sri Lanka.

material thing they wanted, have a sense of "entitlement" i.e., everything should be given to them, they deserve everything without any work or thanks. This pandemic gives us an excellent opportunity to help them to be grateful, to learn to appreciate what they have and, most of all, how they can use their gifts to improve our society. If we claim that the main

focus of our work as people who support young people is accompaniment, without good accompaniment, everything that is mentioned in this research is meaningless. We are called by Don Bosco to transform and empower young people to make a difference in this world. These moments of pandemic is when young people need our accompaniment most.



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Image: Tribal drive- Nagarhole and Biligirirangana Hills.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Through the eyes
of children

Through the eyes of children

Adria Lara and Maria Rita | Don Bosco, Manaus, Brazil



Image: Relief program in Cambodia.

Hi! I'm Adria Lara and I'm 10 years old. I study at the Don Bosco School in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. I looked forward to the beginning of the school year with great joy, to meeting my friends, and a lot of new things. It was the first

year of school for my little sister Maria Rita, who is 5 years old. The school routine is always full of new subjects, challenges, tests, examinations, homework, activities and celebrations in the school chapel. I also have my



Image: Drive through Day, Rocha Miranda-RJ, Brazil.



Image: Distance schooling in Slovenia.

ballet and choir practice. It is that routine I like to live! I couldn't imagine that this year would be any different!

On March 16, after I reached home from school, we received the news that we would have a 15-day break from school. I thought they wanted to do repairs at my school. But my mother said that there was a very dangerous and unknown disease and that, in order not to get sick, everyone should stay at home. Then I realised that it was not a holiday, because you could not only not leave home, you could not also meet and play with your friends, you could not go to school, and you could not even visit your grandparents. Shops, malls, cinemas, restaurants, theatres and parks were all closed. And the phrase "Stay Home" was the most heard on television and internet.

I was scared! My city was one of the first to suffer from the disease; many sick people were dying. But my mother made it clear that we shouldn't be afraid; instead, we should protect

ourselves by staying at home and taking care of hygiene as recommended.

My father didn't have a holiday, he couldn't stop working. He works at the bank, where people who could not work received help in cash from the government. He went to the bank every day, as he is one of the essential services workers, similar to doctors and nurses, who cannot stop. Many started working from home, like my teachers did.

They gave us online classes and my mother made a point of following the school routine even at home. It seemed that I went to school every day without leaving home! My younger sister complained a little and my older sister sometimes slept during these home-classes; it was exhausting! My mother always said that the disease would pass soon and that we needed patience and faith.

I found it strange that these fifteen days took



Image: Childrens awareness program in Mozambique.

so long to pass; it went on for 30, 60, 90 days; finally, we passed more than 4 months without leaving home. My mother also said that everything would be very different when it returned to normal, that we would not be able to embrace our friends; from now on, it will be what they call social distancing.

The most important thing my mother said is that we should always be grateful to God.

Grateful for not having got sick, for not having missed what was necessary in our home and in the family, for having classes even though we were at home.

I know that many people here and in many places in the world are suffering and that we need to pray for the good of all!

My little sister, Maria Rita, drew a picture of Corona for you. I hope you like it.



Image: Adria Lara & Maria Rita from Brazil.



Image: An outdoor prayer service in Portugal.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Spiritual
and pastoral care

Spiritual and pastoral care

Arvin Abatayo | Cebu, the Philippines



Image: The Holy Eucharist in the courtyard of Sacro Cuore, Rome.

COVID-19 hit us like a bolt from the blue. The fact that there was no vaccine against it and no direct cure made it very frightful. The only remedy seemed to be prevention. The speed and ease with which it spread sowed what can only be described as panic.

Maintaining a physical distance was imperative. Among the first victims of this was community worship.

The Church was left with two options: shut all churches, pray and wait till the pandemic

passed or, adapt fast to the changed situation. We chose to adapt and innovate. Some of us used to forbid photography or video-taping in churches during the Eucharist or other religious functions. When we did allow them we demanded heavy fees. Now we invited cameras and we paid to livestream services to the homes of our parishioners.

We prepared our sermons better and made them much shorter than they used to be because we knew that people at home would simply switch channels or go to the kitchen for a snack if we bored them.

Innovation became the order the day. The daily emails from the Congregation's emergency coordinator brought us news of experiments in other parts of the world. Here in the Philippines and elsewhere around the globe, we adapted what we saw and read about. We made them relevant to our own local situation.

Thus, there came to be: the Eucharist online; the Eucharist celebrated from the back of a van or truck in courtyards, streets, parks and other wide open spaces; drive-in Mass in squares and piazzas with the



Image: a Counselling session at Don Bosco College, the Philippines.



Image: Don Bosco College, the Philippines.

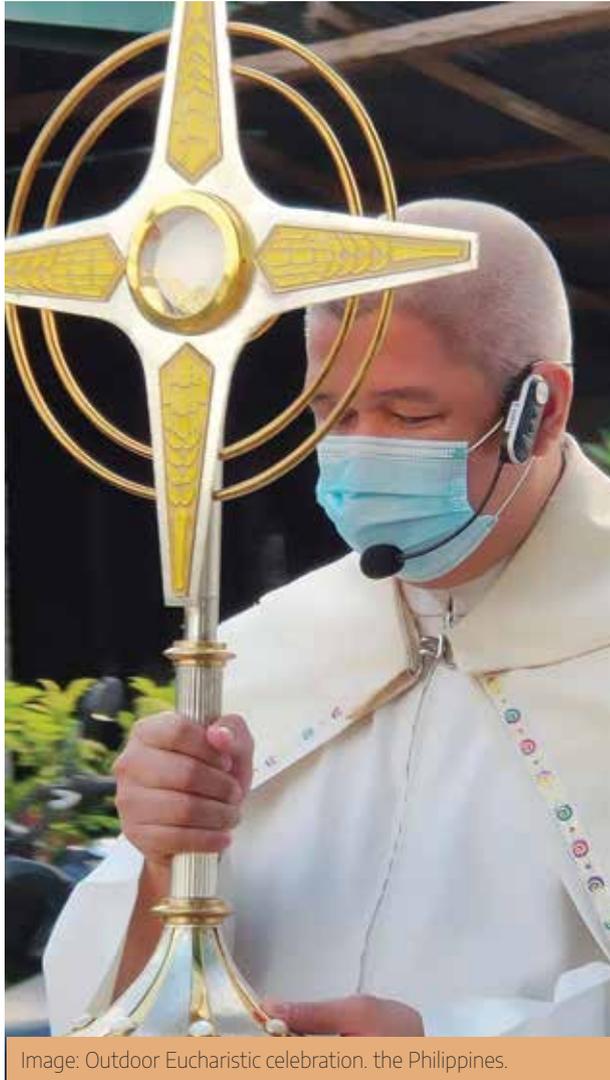


Image: Outdoor Eucharistic celebration. the Philippines.

faithful remaining in their cars and the priest going around only at communion; processions of the priest in an open truck, with a monstrance in hand and blessing people and houses on the way.

We began livestreamed adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. In some places, this live streaming was occurring on a daily basis, as people had time on their hands and they were hungry for reassurance that God had not forgotten them, that there is hope, that not all is lost.

Special prayers were said for those that were infected, individually over the telephone and through community prayer in the form of live-streaming. Salesian Centres, parishes and institutions offered counselling.

As Salesians we made ourselves available online for children who could no longer bear with the isolation and boredom of being locked down within their nuclear families; for their parents close to nervous break-downs because they had to work online and keep their children engaged and happy; and for young people who were heartbroken at missing out



Image: Confession during an outdoor prayer service, Rome.

on the social life that is such an important part of their age. Families began connecting among themselves to recite the Rosary and night prayers as an online community, and held online meetings of 'Small Christian Communities'.

The 'good-night talks' were beamed right into the homes of our students, parishioners and

friends, reaching a far wider audience than the small group of inmates of boarding houses and hostels that we traditionally addressed. Speakers and presenters of the 'Good Night' are not only from the Salesians working in one small community but from members of the Salesian family all over the world. Likewise, school assemblies and inspirational 'good-morning



Image: A regular Eucharistic celebration during COVID in the Philippines.

talks' that formerly only students and teachers benefitted from, now are reaching their families. There were and are online retreats and recollections for Salesians, students, parishioners and groups and organizations of various types; catechesis and Bible-study online; a variety of spiritual but interesting and engaging programmes for young people and children onlineWe also visited those sick at home from illnesses other than covid-19...

The list of pastoral initiatives is endless. There had been fears that people would get habituated to a minimum of spiritual and religious practices. One had to see it to believe it – the hunger of the soul seen once again as community practices were permitted under strict physical distancing and other precautions. May God make it possible for us to return to larger community celebrations, but without forgetting the lessons learned under corona.



Image: A prayer and blessing for the participants of Drive-through children's week, Brazil.



Image: followed by a covid-proof hug, Manaus, Brazil.



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Image: Children's awareness programme by MSMHC sisters – Lesotho.



ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Strategy
COVID related priorities

Strategy-COVID related priorities

This text was drawn up in April 2020



Image: Salesians in Yercaud, India - Photo Credit - Santhosh.

IN COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT AFFECTED OR THE INFECTION LEVEL IS MINIMAL –
and even before lockdown (by now almost all countries / States / territories are in lockdown)

- 1. Spreading Awareness of the contagion,**
 - a. That the risk is real
 - b. That it will reach us too

- c. That it is serious due to the lack of a vaccine or direct cure
- d. How to avoid getting it
 - i. Physical distancing
 - ii. Use of masks
 - iii. Frequent washing of hands for at least 20 seconds using water and soap
 - iv. Improving general health and immunity – better nutrition

2. Covid-Mapping. Identify and locate:

- a. The weakest in the communities we serve and the population around us
- b. The specific needs of each of these communities
- c. The resources we already have and can share with the vulnerable around us
- d. The resources we have which we can put at the disposal of other States / countries / territories
- e. The organizations near us with whom we can collaborate; the resources they have; the resources they will need
- f. The local and national governments' plans, resources and needs
- g. The resources we will need to seek from other organizations / States / countries

3. Making of masks and other protective equipment

4. Distribution of masks

5. Encouraging the stocking of a modest quantity of food for a few weeks

IN COUNTRIES THAT ARE MORE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AND ARE UNDER LOCKDOWN

1. Spreading awareness

- a. How to prevent contagion (as in 1 above)

- b. What to do if an individual shows one or more mild symptoms
- c. What to do if an individual shows more serious symptoms
- d. What quarantining a symptomatic individual signifies
- e. Possibilities of testing in our neighbourhood
- f. What and where resources are available when needed
- g. How to take care of the elderly within the family

2. Seeing to basic needs for survival – saving lives

- a. Community kitchens
- b. Provision of food materials for families to cook for themselves
- c. Home distribution of pre-cooked, read-to-eat meals and safe drinking water where specific individuals/families need it
- d. Distribution of masks, soap, sanitizers
- e. Moving from relief handouts to income-generation at the earliest possible
- f. Moving from external (foreign) support to local partnerships at the earliest possible

3. Specific services for specific target groups

- a. Online classes, tests, competitions, activities For children and students
- b. Training of teachers to teach online
- c. Helpline and online counselling for people that need material, psychological or spiritual support
- d. Provision of Religious services online
- e. Training of Salesians and collaborators for an effective use of the social media to be of service to people in distress

POST PANDEMIC SERVICES

1. Development of a formal Salesian Policy or a Salesian Missionary approach to development with standards and key areas to be maintained in any response
2. Recuperation of lost months of school life and studies
3. Creation of awareness and preparedness for a return of covid-19 or other pandemics
4. Career-counselling and job-placement for those who have no employment because their previous organization does not exist anymore
5. Marriage- and family-counselling for those whose relationships suffered damage during lockdown
6. Retooling our TVET institutions to shutdown training for skills that are no longer needed and to prepare young people for new types of jobs
7. Training of Salesians and collaborators in effective use of the media
8. Training of all Salesian communities and our partners in disaster prevention, disaster mitigation and disaster management
9. Training of Salesian communities and relevant collaborators in the basics of project design, monitoring and reporting
10. Building of CSO's – community-based organizations – to be sources of strength and support for the community in times of unforeseen harmful circumstances (pandemics, natural and man-made disasters)
11. Building / improving relations with government organizations and structures
12. Building / improving bonds with other CSO's in the region
13. Improvement of provisions for safe drinking-water, hygiene, sanitation in all institutions and communities
14. Learning and teaching to live with a limited and controlled presence of covid-19, potentially for years to come (like HIV, cholera, tuberculosis, malaria ...)

15. At Congregational and Salesian Family level to strengthen coordination and networking facilities.
16. Development of targets and priorities in the areas of Development, humanitarian and Emergency responses that are in line with our charism for the congregation and our associated NGO's
17. A review of what Child and Vulnerable Safeguarding may mean in times of emergency and pandemic
18. Improve the self-sustainability of all Salesian Provinces
19. A review and strategy in terms of the ability to respond to emergencies and pandemic-like situations from a financial point of view...how flexible our funding policies are, how available funding is ... should we have a reserve fund for such situations, etc...



Image: Childrens awareness program by MSMHC - Lesotho.



Image: Students involved in PPE making – the Philippines.





ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

26 Logo

A global logo for Don Bosco's Solidarity Vs COVID-19 Campaign

Noel Maddhichetty | India

Don Bosco was a great visionary leader, who dedicated his life to youth and children, the most vulnerable group at all times in history. The UN Secretary General, Antonio Gutierrez,

said that COVID-19 would seriously compromise the future of this generation of children and youth. This is a global problem. The response to it had to be global, too.



Image: Ration distribution in Thailand.

A threat that is viral can only be met by a solidarity that is equally viral. The Salesians of Don Bosco are active in 134 countries. Taking a holistic view of this enormous emergency, the

Rector Major launched the Don Bosco Solidarity VS COVID-19 campaign to address the challenges of the situation: the prevention of infection to the extent possible; the sustenance of the most vulnerable people and promotion of productivity and livelihood in the changed, emerging scenarios.



Image: Ration distribution in New Delhi, India.

We envisaged that a common logo could help to further a concerted, coordinated work. Hence our contribution of this logo. It symbolises the pledge of the Salesians of Don Bosco to save and sustain a green and healthy future for all and especially for the young people of the world.

The logo was conceptualised and designed by the Media and Communication team of BOSCONET – the Mission Office of the Salesian Region of South Asia, based at New Delhi, India. It was selected by an international panel among those submitted by various individuals and groups. The essence of the campaign is Solidarity—across the world, nations, societies and religions, a movement of an

army of solidarity— and its main weapon is viral giving of human, financial and material resources to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Features of the logo:

- Green colour signifying solidarity, renewal and hope
- World map and round shape signifying the global reach
- Don Bosco, our inspiration
- Salesian logo signifying the Salesian family at the heart of the work
- Differently coloured hands signifying the global effort for the cause



Image: Meal kiosk in Thailand.



Noel Maddhichetty sdb
BOSCONET New Delhi, India

You can reach him on director@bosconet.in

For more information related to the topic of this article, please scan the "QR Code" using your mobile device.



(You can download a "QR code scanner" app from "Google-Play Store" or "Apple-App Store")

Some statistics

Marco Bay, Italy

What follows is a very brief summary of the data we collected on our work around the world in the first six months to confront the covid pandemic. In many cases the responses were immediate, from the heart and answering to felt needs. They were driven by the desire to help our fellow men, women and children who were in great need, and in many cases in life threatening situations. The outreach, the projects undertaken, were not pre-planned; they were in response to a situation that was very new everywhere and unique to many local situations in the 134 countries the Salesians are in.

At the beginning, responses lacked coordination and were not in line with any great 'blueprint'. There were no pre-set targets, no pre-agreed success indicators. Each intervention was a response to the needs on the ground and in response to the clear

directive of the Rector Major to "SAVE LIVES!". No one foresaw the spread of the virus all around the world, the speed of its spread, the measures various governments would make, the lacunae in them and, hence, the areas in which our interventions would be needed.

A complete and thorough analysis of the huge amount of data we received is in progress and will be available soon to those interested. We present here some of the summary points from the information from a number of Provinces.

As one reviews the data presented here, a few caveats are in order:

1. The focus and energy were first and foremost to serve those in need. Institutions and provinces were not instructed right at the start to keep records of everything they did.

2. Neither were there early indications that there would be a request for specific data at a later date, though institutions and organisation were informed that they would have to report, document and account for projects funded by donors. Much of the data here are approximations and estimates.
3. The needs varied enormously from country to country, depending on numerous factors: the socio-economic circumstances; the financial and organizational capacities of Governments; the level, extent and speed of infection, etc. Hence, the apparently lopsided data with regard to some activities like distribution of food.
4. Some countries like Samoa had nothing to report except the making of masks for distribution elsewhere because no one was ever infected in the country.
5. Not all Provinces provided data using the official format. It is certain that it was impossible even for the Provinces that did respond to give us all the data from all the institutions, activities, programmes and initiatives in the entire Province.
6. There was enormous variety in the nature or identity of people, their needs and their circumstances; and in the activities, programmes and services needed to respond to them adequately. Hence, we received equally varying responses to the questions in the format. To reduce the complexity and improve comprehension of the data, we grouped together different but similar categories.
7. We need also to keep in mind the variety of languages and the differences from country to country in the interpretation of words even in the same language. The

same activity has different names in different places; and the same words may describe a different activity in different countries.

8. The data mostly focuses on the work of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Their collaborators included, in many places, some members of the Salesian Family. It does not include data of the enormous amount of work done by these groups on their own. Finally, we insist that these statistics or data are only indicative, not comprehensive nor exhaustive. They are like the tip of the iceberg but a good indicator of what was done. Please view them from that perspective.

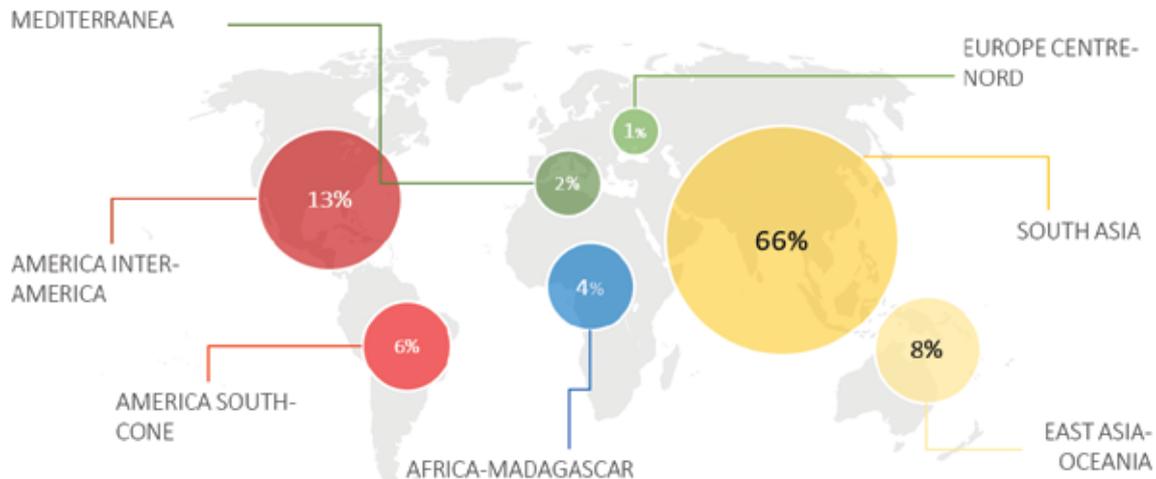


DON BOSCO SOLIDARIETY COVID 19 RELIEF

(6.11.2020)

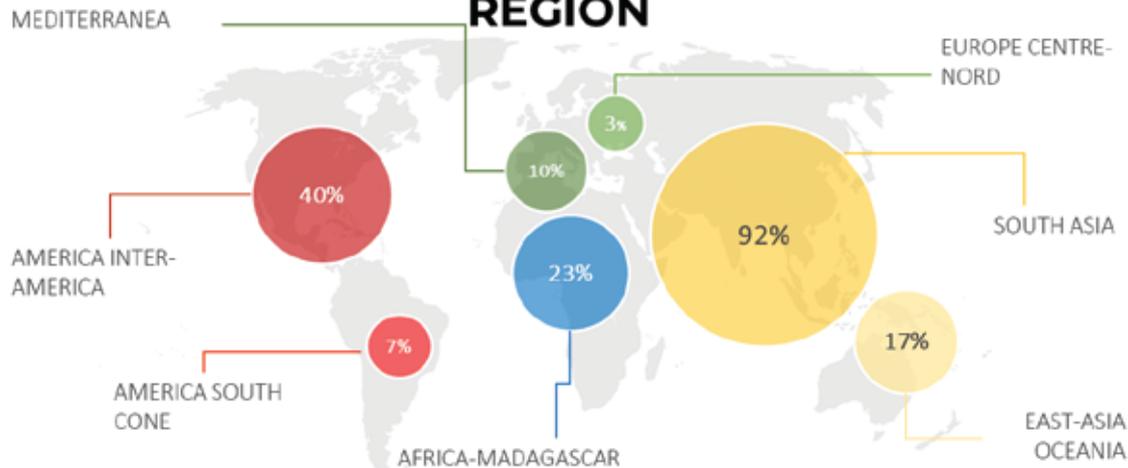


FAMILIES WE HELPED BY SALESIAN REGION



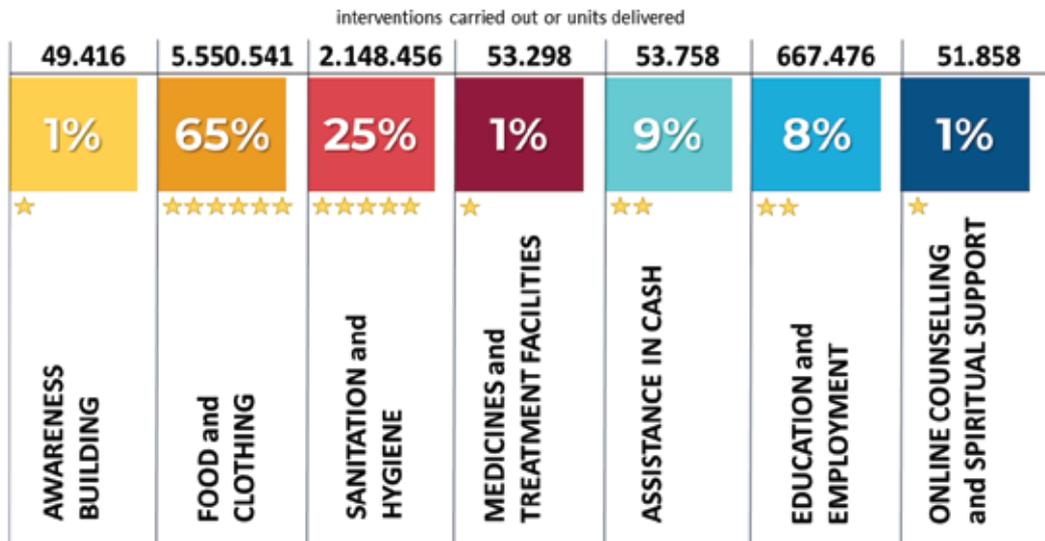
Note: The Salesian South Asia Region, due to its very special circumstances, reached a very high number of families, which covers 66% of the needy we helped; the other percentage indications refer to the remaining 34% in the other continents, which is also not a small number considering their own circumstances.

INDIVIDUALS WE HELPED BY SALESIAN REGION

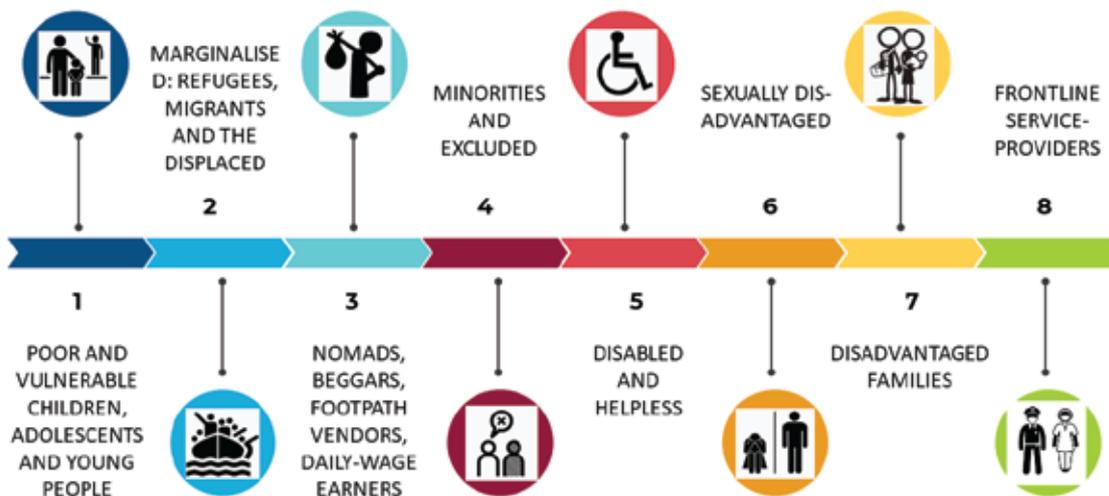


Note: The Salesian South Asia Region, due to its special circumstances, reached a very high number of individuals, which covers 92% of the needy we helped; the other percentage indications refer to the remaining 8% in the other continents and is itself not a small number considering their own circumstances.

In what proportion (%) of the following areas of action were the institutions most focused?

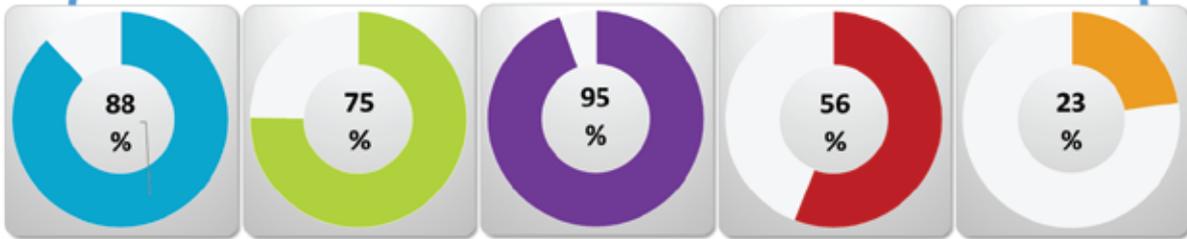
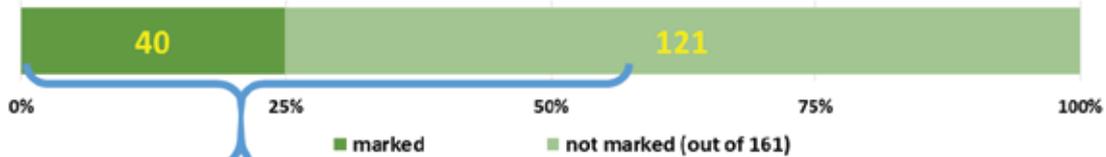


CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE WE HELPED



HUMAN RESOURCES

institutions that have indicated the choice



EMPLOYEES

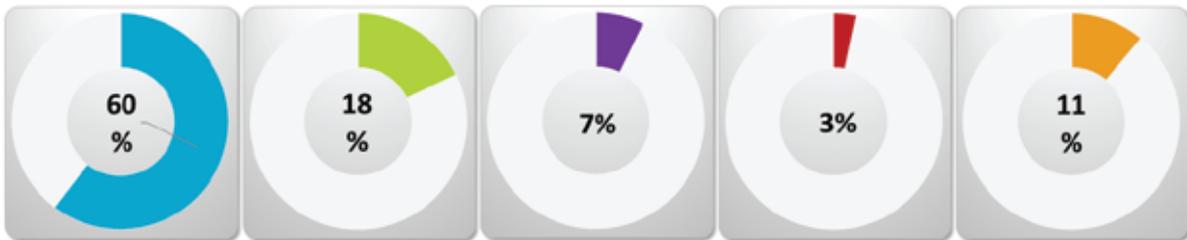
VOLUNTEERS

SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

SALESIAN FAMILY GROUPS

OTHERS

HUMAN RESOURCES



EMPLOYEES

VOLUNTEERS

SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

SALESIAN FAMILY GROUPS

OTHERS

35.956

10.660

4.331

1.981

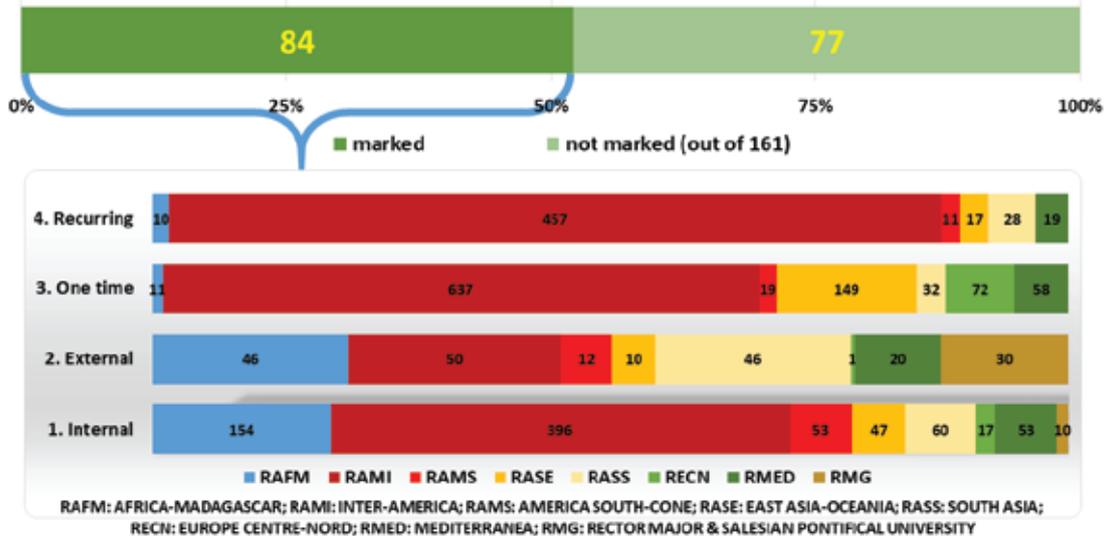
6.600

People involved

PARTNERS



PARTNERS (SDB regions)



RESOURCES USED - About US \$ 24,466,500

RAFM: AFRICA-MADAGASCAR; RAMI: INTER-AMERICA; RAMS: AMERICA SOUTH-CONE; RASE: EAST ASIA-OCEANIA; RASS: SOUTH ASIA;
 REC N: EUROPE CENTRE-NORD; RMED: MEDITERRANEA; RMG: RECTOR MAJOR & SALESIAN PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY



We still need about 2.5 million euros if we are to cover the costs of the projects we have already received.



Marco Bay sdb

Italy

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For more information related to the topic of this article, please scan the "QR Code" using your mobile device.



(You can download a "QR code scanner" app from "Google-Play Store" or "Apple-App Store")

ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Our partners

28

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | ANGOLA – ANG | Banco Huambo, Banco BFA, Geoloc, particulares, VIS Angola, UNICEF Angola | Procura Madrid, Procura Turin |
| 2 | ANTILLES – ANT | BANCO BHD León / Grupo Bona/ Centro Cuesta Nacional/ Fundación E.León Jimenez / Industria Aguayo / Fundación David Collado/ Asociación Dominicana de Voluntariado/Ministerio de Educación/ Colgate Palmolive/Agencia de Cooperación Coreana/ Agora Mall / Caritas Diosesana | Inspectoria de Corea / JUWE / Misiones Salesianas Madrid/ |
| 3 | ARGENTINA – ARN | Organizaciones: Cáritas nacional, Banco de Alimentos de Rosario (BAR), Procura Misionera Argentina- Sector privado: distribuidora de Pepsi , hiperlibertad- Sector público: Ministerio de Desarrollo Social de la Provincia de La Rioja, Legislatura de Tucumán, Caja Popular de Ahorros de la Provincia de Tucumán, municipalidades -gobiernos locales-, INTA, ejército Argentino. | Don Bosco Mission, JuWe, Santa Infancia |
| 4 | AUSTRIA – AUS | Government; Ministry of Education | |
| 5 | BANGLADESH - INC | A few parishioners | JuWe Beromuenster |
| 6 | BELGIUM – BEN | Belgian and Flemisch government | |
| 7 | BENIN – AFO | Fondation Claudine Talon | |
| 8 | BOLIVIA – BOL | | VIA Don Bosco CHALICE Procura de Misiones de Madrid DON BOSCO Jugendhilfe Weltweit (JuWe) |
| 9 | BRAZIL – BMA | CÁRITAS E GOVERNO LOCAL | |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|----------------|---|---|
| 10 | BRAZIL – BPA | Sicredi/Martinelli/Comunidade/SESC/Mesa Brasil/Secretaria Assistencia/Terminals, Rede Biostek Supermercados, Seara Alimentos, Fort Atacadista, Unicesumar, Uniced, Cootravale Transportes, Midas Imp.Exp., All Brands, Genomma Laboratories, Dalba Eng., Tratorsolo Maq, Transp. Verdes Campos, Cooperativa Evolua, Cap. Eugênio Mancuello | Kombi do Bem / CESMAR / Kinder Helfen Kindern |
| 11 | BURUNDI – AGL | Chrestien de nos Paroisse | New Rochelle, Poland Warsaw et Madrid |
| 12 | CANADA – SUE | Govt. Of Canada, Local govts., Local dioceses | Salesian Missions, New Rochelle, NY, USA |
| 13 | CHILE – CIL | Compañía Inversora Rio Bueno, Confederación De la Producción y del comercio, Banco Santander Chile, Sociedad de servicios dermatológicos, Banco Itau, Empresa Tucafel, Confederación de la producción y comercio, Southbridge compañía de seguros generales, Sociedad de servicios dermatológicos, Emaresa Ingenieros y Representaciones S.A., Empresa Wom, Empresas Unimarc, Corporación Red de Alimentos, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Fundación Semillas de Hijueta, Fundación Arturo Irarrazaval Correa | Don Bosco Mondo |
| 14 | COLOMBIA – COB | Inspectoria San Pedro Claver COB - Parroquia Divino Niño Jesus - Banco de Alimentos de Bogotá - Parroquia las Nieves de Tunja | Don Bosco Solidarity - Jugend Eine Welt |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 15 | COLOMBIA – COM | | Misiones Salesianas, Don Bosco Mondo, Missioni Don Bosco, Juwe, Diócesis de AACHEN, Diócesis de Fulda, Santa Infancia , Misionera, Fundación Klaus y Gestrud Conrad Stiftung, Don Bosco Internacional |
| 16 | COSTA RICA – CAM | Banco Alimentos, Club Rotario San José, Agricultores Zona Santos | Club Rotario Minnesota |
| 17 | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – ACC | | procure de turin, bonn, Madrid et Irlande |
| 18 | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – AFC | <i>5 partners, Names not mentioned</i> | <i>4 Partners, Names not mentioned</i> |
| 19 | EAST TIMOR – TLS | Don Bosco Parishses | Don Bosco Mission New Rochelle and ASMOAF |
| 20 | ECUADOR – ECU | Consejo Provincial de Pichincha, INEC, Ministerio de Inclusión económica y social, Banco de Alimentos DIACONÍA, Municipio de Guayaquil, MUNICIPIO DE GUAYAQUIL (DASE), INDUSTRIAS ALES, FUNDACIÓN P. ANTONIO AMADOR, INIAP-MAGAP, FUNDACIÓN CARLA MORALES, FUNDACIÓN DALE, REYBANPAC, NESTLE, DOLE, MINISTERIO DE SALUD, GRUPO SUPERIOR, INDUSTRIAL MOLINERA, V.A.M | CROSS CATHOLIC, Familiares Padre Ivano, KINDER NOT HILFE, VIA DON BOSCO, MISIONES SALESIANAS, LICH UND SCHATTEN E. V., FUNDACIÓN ROSTRO DE CRISTO, JEW |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| 21 | EGYPT – MOR | Arcobaleno, Alfa Farm | Procura di Madrid, Salesian Mission, Ambasciata Italiana, Fondazione Real Madrid, USAID |
| 22 | EL SALVADOR – CAM | Ministerio de Salud / ISSS / MINED/INSAFORP/FUSALMO/CANAL 33/ANEP-ASI/COMEDICA | Proyecto Vía Don Bosco/ Salesian Mission |
| 23 | GEORGIA – PLN | La dita “PLASTICS” | SANTO PADRE FRANCESCO, ELEMOSINIERE DI SUA SANTITA CARD. KONRAD KRAJEWSKI, CARITAS TICINO, “NADIAONLUS”, „ITALIA – GEORGIA”, “CUORE AMICO”, FONDAZIONE “OPERA DON BOSCO NEL MONDO” CENTRO MISSIONARIO VARSAVIA. e altri |
| 24 | GREAT BRITAIN – GBR | Salesian Schools | Angels Battersea |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|------------------|---|---|
| 25 | GUATEMALA – CAM | Swiss Contac, Exalumnos de escuelas católicas, Orden de Malta, Asociación Apoya, Caritas, Divina Misericordia, Fundación Torrebiarte. Funda Arverja, Nestle, Grupo Hame, La Barata, La Casita | JuWe, Salesianos NY, Salesianos Austria, Canadá |
| 26 | HONDURAS – CAM | Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo de Honduras (FUNADEH), Cámara de Comercio e Industrias de Tegucigalpa (CCIT), Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP), Instituto Hondureño de Educación por Radio (IHER), Federación Nacional de Centros Educativos Católicos de Honduras (FENCECH), Arzobispado de Tegucigalpa, Empresa Energía Honduras (EEH) | Salesian Missions, Brucke Le pont (ONG Suiza), Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación (COSUDE), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale |
| | | | Iniciativas en gestión con Vía Don Bosco (Bélgica), Don Bosco Mondo (Alemania), Canadian Food For Children, Salvatorian Mission Warehouse |
| 27 | HUNGARY – UNG | <i>2 Partners, Names not mentioned</i> | |
| 28 | INDIA – BOSCONET | General Mills, Ambit India, SBI Life, EY Foundation Macquarie, Zomato, Price Water Cooper, Mareli, Give India-HSBC, Adva, Eclerx, Homecredit, Noreen Van Holstein | JEW, Don Bosco Bonn, Miseon Cara-Ireland, |
| 29 | INDIA – IND | Barefoot college | Don Bosco Mondo |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-------------|--|--|
| 30 | INDIA – INH | Give India, Zomato, General Mills, Highways of India, BoscoNet | Don Bosco Jugendhilfe Welt Weit, Switerland, Don Bosco Mission, Bonn, Germany, Don Bosco Aid, Ireland, Missioni Don Bosco, Turin, Italy, Don Bosco Mission, Austria, Jugend Eine Welt, Austria, Kiran Anjali, USA, One World, Swizerland |
| 31 | INDIA – INK | Resposenet, Bosconet, Zomato Feeding India, Solarpack, Stonesoup, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), Good Quest Foundation, Project Vision, AIFO India, Corona Care Bengaluru, , Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS), Nanj Solar Plant Ltd., Ekialde Sun Energy Pvt. Ltd. | Don Bosco Mondo, Misean Cara, Jugendhilfe WeltWeit, Jugend Eine Welt, |
| 32 | INDIA – INM | Bosconet | Jugendilfe Weltweit, Jugend Eine Welt, Missioni Don Bosco, |
| | | | Misean Cara, Missio,SEED |
| 33 | INDIA – INN | Zomato – Feeding India, Unilever, Macquarie, Ferrero Group, Reckitt Benckiser Group, Jesuit Refugees Services and BOSCO Net | Don Bosco Bonn, JuWe, Conrad, Salesian Mission |
| 34 | INDIA – INP | DB Network India, Schiffers and Minezes, Guala Closures, Lions Club of Calangute, Anchor of Hope and Zion Tours. | Manos Unidos, Salesian Mission, Don Bosco Mondo and Vancouver Goan Community Canada. |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 35 | INDIA – INS | BoscoNet, Federal Bank Ltd., | Don Bosco Mission - Mondo, Don Bosco International - Germany, Don Bosco Missions - USA, Childaid Network - Germany |
| 36 | INDIA – INT | | Vereinigung Don Boscowerk Casa Salesiana Beato Michael Rua Salesians of Don Bosco, England Stichting Pater Schlooz Don Bosco Mondo |
| 37 | INDONESIA – INA | Kedde Sumba, Catholic Fellowship of Jakarta, Holy Trinity Community, various groups of St John Bosco parish, Social Sector of the St. John Bosco Parish | |
| 38 | IRELAND – IRL | Misean Cara | |
| 39 | ISRAEL – MOR | negozi e aziende locali | Don Bosco Mission Bonn, Missioni don Bosco , Jugend eine welt |
| 40 | ITALY – ICC | <i>5 Partners, Names not mentioned</i> | <i>1 Partner, Name not mentioned</i> |
| 41 | ITALY – ICP | Fondazioni | |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|------------------|--|--|
| 42 | KENYA – AFE | Christ the King Parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Sacred Heart Sisters | SAVIO, MISEAN CARA, MISEONES SALESIANAS, NEW ROCHELLES/SALESIAN MISSIONS |
| 43 | LAOS – THA | Our teachers and Lao Youth Union officials | |
| 44 | LEBANON – MOR | Pontifical Mission, AVSI, Oeuvre d'Orient | Jugend eine welt, DBM Bonn, Misiones salesianas, Missioni don Bosco, SWM, Fondation don Bosco France |
| 45 | LITHUANIA – ICP | Centro Catechistico diocesano, banco alimentre | |
| 46 | MALI – AFO | | Bosco Global - Procure Missionnaire Salésienne de Madrid |
| 47 | MEXICO – MEM | VIS VILLAGGIO FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOUNDATION IAP VALLE DE MARIA AC LABORATORIOS SENOSIAIN SA DE CV FUNDACION CADENA DE SONRISAS AC FUNDACION MAGDALENA RUIZ DE DEL VALLE IAP FUNDACION GUILLERMO BARROSO CORICHI AC | MISIONES SALESIANAS/JYD SALEZJAŃSKI OŚRODEK MISYJNY (SOM) |
| 48 | MOZAMBIQUE – MOZ | Impar Seguros / Palotinos /Pessoas indivduais/ Paróquia São José de Lhanguene | GIZ-Cooperação Alemã/ JYD |
| 49 | MYANMAR – MYM | Local Authority | BONN |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| 50 | NEPAL – INC | Bosconet India Dream India Net work Bangalore, Price Water Cooper | Verein Italy, Verein Germany, Other Benefactors |
| 51 | NICARAGUA – CAM | Swiss Contact | Misiones Salesianas, Don Bosco Mondo, Jóvenes y Desarrollo |
| 52 | NIGERIA – AFW | Chief Rotimi Williams Estate COVID-19 Task force (2), The various dioceses & parishes, Ancilla Catholic Hospital, Don Bosco Empowerment Foundation, PDO | Misiones Salesianas, Don Bosco Mondo, VIS- CEI, Don Bosco Aid Ireland - Miseen Cara |
| 53 | PALESTINE – MOR | negozi e aziende locali | Don Bosco Mission Bonn, Missioni don Bosco , Jugend eine welt |
| 54 | PANAMA – CAM | MEDUCA-JUNTA COMUNAL | |
| 55 | PARAGUAY – PAR | Arzobispado | Juwe - Suiza |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| 56 | PERU – PER | G & S CHOICE S.A.C., A & C INVERSIONES INTERNACIONALES S.A.C., A & C INVERSIONES S.A.C., AGROINDUSTRIAS GARAY E.I.R.L., BANCO DE ALIMENTOS, CARITAS DEL PERU, COMPAÑÍA PERUANA DE RADIODIFUSION S.A., CINDEL S.A., CONFECCIONES CARDIER SAC, DELOSI S.A., DISTRIBUIDORA DE CARNES ZEDINA S.A.C., ELABORACIÓN DE FIDEOS CHUUNG LEE SAC, FÁBRICA DE FIDEOS EL TRIUNFO S.A., GIARDINO DEL PERU SRL, LASINO S.A., MOLINOS DEL MUNDO S.A.C, SAIDEL S.A.C., SOCIEDAD SUIZO PERUANA DE EMBUTIDOS SA, SUPERMERCADOS PERUANOS S.A., TELEPIZZA ANDINA S.A.C., AMIGOS DE DON BOSCO | DON BOSCO MISSION BONN-ALEMANIA, DONANTE JUGENDHILFE WELTWEIT - SUIZA /, Salesian Missions New Rochelle – Estados Unidos, WATSONVILLE ROTARY - ESTADOS UNIDOS, MISSION DON BOSCO TURIN – ITALIA, Fondazione Opera Don Bosco nel Mondo de Italia y Suiza, DEUSTSCHE PROVINZ DER SALESIANER DON BOSCO - MUENCHEN – ALEMANIA, Procura Misionera Salesiana de Varsovia |
| 57 | PHILIPPINES – FIN | <i>Names not mention</i> | |
| 58 | PHILIPPINES – FIS | Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare & Dev't, Rotary Club, Local Government Unit of Borongan, Local Government Unit of Dumangas, Local Government Unit of Victorias, Local Government Unit of Davao, Local Government Unit of Mati, Technical Education & Skills Dev't Authority, Technical Education & Skills Dev't Authority | Misean Cara, Ireland, DB Mission- Bonn, Germany, DB Mondo-Bonn, Germany, Salesian Missions-New York, USA, Archdiocese of Cologne, Germany, Salesian Missions-Seoul, Korea |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 59 | PORTUGAL – POR | Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome, Entrajuda, Assembleia da República Portuguesa, Pingo Doce de S. Bento, Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Junta de Freguesia de Campo de Ourique, Junta de Freguesia da Lapa, CPCJ - Lisboa Ocidental | Fundação Real Madrid, Missões Salesianas de Madrid |
| 60 | RUMANIA - INE | <i>2 Partners, Names not mentioned</i> | procura missionaria Bonna, stersinger Austria, Jugent eine welt- Austria |
| 61 | RWANDA – AGL | Les chrétiens de nos Paroisse | Bienfaiteurs de la croatie, Bienfaiteurs de l'Allemagne, Bienfaiteurs de pologne, Bienfaiteurs USA- New Rochelle, Bienfaiteurs d'Italie, Bienfaiteurs de l'Espagne |
| 62 | SENEGAL – AFO | | VIS |
| 63 | SLOVANIA – SLO | Oratory Project Slovenia, Slovenian Salesian Parishes, | |
| 64 | SOLOMON ISLANDS – PGS | | Bonn |
| 65 | SOUTH AFRICA – AFM | Catholic Institute of Education, Archdiocese of Cape Town | Salesian Missions - New Rochelle, Don Bosco Mondo |
| 66 | SOUTH SUDAN – AFE | PAH, UNHCR | Caritas Austria, Kindermission |
| 67 | SPAIN – SSM | Fundaciones privadas (Caixa, Educo, etc), Admón. Pública | |

| COUNTRY - PROVINCE | | LOCAL PARTNERS | EXTERNAL (foreign) PARTNERS |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 68 | SRI LANKA – LKC | | Don Bosco Mission Austria, Salezjanski Osrodek, MISEREOR, and Private Donations |
| 69 | TANZANIA – AFE | | Via DB and Salesians missions Madrid |
| 70 | TOGO – AFO | MAIRIE- GOLFE 1/ CROIX -ROUGE SECTION LOME | Bosco Global |
| 71 | UGANDA – AGL | Caritas, District, Trocare, Cesvi, AVSI, Insieme si Puo, | DB Ireland, Cracow and warsaw |
| 72 | USA – SUE | Catholic Charities, | |
| 73 | VIETNAM – VIE | Bach Hoa Xanh, Companies, local benefactors | |
| 74 | ZAMBIA – ZMB | Zambia Association of Youth and Children, St. Luke Mission Hospital, Chishae Old Age Homes | Misiones Salesianas, Salesian Mission Office Korea, Salesian Association Check Republic, Salesian Mission Office Poland |

ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

*Father, we adore you
Father, we love you*

You made Eve the mother of all men
Raised the son of the widow at Zaraphat
Allowed the prophet of Balaam to speak
Made Melchisedech bless Abraham
Your love sent your Son to save us
Who cured the Samaritan's daughter
Who healed the centurion's servant
Who spread his arms wide on the Cross
To embrace all of creation
Father, make us love one another

*Father, we adore you
Father, we love you*

May people of all nations know you
May people of all colours love one another
May we be closer to one another
As we come closer to you, loving Father
May we learn to help each other
Each in the ways we all can
May we learn not to count the cost
Open our eyes that we may see
Father, make us love one another

*Father, we adore you
Father, we love you
When I see a brother or a sister in need
May I not turn away my face*

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime
galvanized the Salesian Family with his call to

*“Place our trust in Mary,
the mother of Jesus, the healer;
roll up our sleeves and go out to
our suffering brothers and sisters.”*

The response was immediate, massive, coordinated and professional. This response continues in 134 countries. This is not the end of the story.

*“I know that what we do is but a drop in the ocean
but, if we didn't do it, the ocean would be that
much less.” – Mother Teresa.*

We continue adding our little drops to the ocean.

ONE FATHER ONE FAMILY

Don Bosco solidarity in COVID times

Missions Sector
Salesians of Don Bosco