

# MISSIONARY

ANIMATION

NEWSLETTER



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Microsoft Copilot

**AUGUST 2026**



**Fr. Dan Carroll SDB**

*Director  
Salesian Mission Office*

***Dear Readers,***

*Welcome to the August 2026 Edition  
of the Salesian Missionary Magazine.*

The large cities throughout the world present immense challenges for evangelisation. In those cities we meet young people full of dreams and possibilities, but also marked by loneliness, anonymity and a profound search for meaning. It is precisely there, at the heart of everyday life, that God awaits the modern missionary.

This month's presentation is centred on evangelisation, and in particular, making the gospel known in the modern city.

In his prayer intention for the month August 2026, Pope Leo XIV invites Catholics to pray 'for evangelization in the city,' so that the Lord may accompany the millions who seek meaning amid noise and haste. (Vatican News)

MAKING

Jesus

known in our urban  
communities

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
You walk through our streets and squares,  
enter tall buildings and humble neighborhoods,  
and silently accompany millions  
who seek meaning amid noise and haste.

You know, Lord, the heart of the city:  
its lights and shadows, its noise and loneliness.  
We know that cities are called to be places of freedom and opportunity,  
but they can also become spaces of anonymity and isolation.  
That's why today we ask You for a renewed gaze,  
able to discover in urban life  
fertile ground for proclaiming your Gospel.

Give us a creative and deep faith,  
that doesn't remain in words,  
but becomes flesh through simple and loving gestures.  
Make us a Church that goes forth,  
able to reach out to the peripheries,  
to console those who are lonely,  
and to sow fraternity and connection instead of giving in to indifference.

Lord, may our urban communities  
be open and welcoming homes,  
places where hope is shared,  
where no one feels invisible,  
and where the joy of your Gospel shines  
in the hidden lives of so many brothers and sisters.  
Make us your witnesses in the city,  
bold and creative missionaries,  
who proclaim your Love with their lives—  
a Love capable of overcoming haste, noise, and anonymity.  
Amen.



MISSIONARY  
INTENTION  
2026

AUGUST



Evangelization



## SALESIAN INTENTION

„Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.“

AUGUST  
PERU

PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE LEO XIV &gt; For evangelization in the city

# Salesian MISSIONARY

## I N T E N T I O N

Turin, Nairobi, Manila, Buenos Aires, Kolkata, New York City, Madrid, Freetown or Lusaka are some of the cities Salesian missionaries. For Salesian missionaries, evangelisation is not only about preaching but also about living out Christian values through service, compassion, and education. Prayer, works of charity and social justice programmes are central to this approach.

Our missionaries, in the spirit of Don Bosco, provide safe places where the young can learn, play, and pray together. To do this Salesian missionaries have put in place youth centres, primary and secondary schools, technical skills training centres, boarding schools, emergency accommodation centres, vocational guidance, centres helping young migrants, street children, trafficked young people, health centres, parishes and mission stations.

In all these locations salesian missionaries meet young people in the cities of the world. Evangelisation depends on the personal witness of each individual - the charity, hope and love they bring to every encounter with the young.

**Please remember to set aside a day every month to pray for the Salesian intention. The 11<sup>th</sup> of the month is suggested.**



# GRACE of a Beginning

## 211<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF ST. JOHN BOSCO

The 16 August is the birthday of St John Bosco. The 16 August 2025 marked the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. The Rector Major, Fr Fabio Attard preached at a mass in Turin on that day. The following is part of what he preached about Don Bosco's early life:

The reflection opened on a fundamental fact: Don Bosco was born in a human context that was poor, but not miserable. Poor in material means and resources, but extraordinarily rich in values, authentic relationships, and a full humanity.

Many material things were lacking, but there was no lack of healthy and holy people. This is already reason to praise God for giving abundantly not in things, but in people. A thanksgiving that also extends to Mary, a constant presence at the side of the teacher and Father Don Bosco.

Life at the Becchi generated something that has transcended all boundaries: Don Bosco's charism has spread not by structural expansion, but by spiritual attraction and the power of the Gospel. It embraced different realities, cultures, and peoples, without exclusion.





On the 26 July 2026 at Mumbai, India 847 young Garo migrants from the Indian states of Meghalaya and Assam, who now live and work in Mumbai, gathered at the Don Bosco Shrine in Matunga for their monthly gathering of faith and fellowship. The initiative, organised by the Suraksha Migrant Desk in Matunga in collaboration with Don Bosco Balprafulta, offered participants an important opportunity for prayer, sharing and recreation, helping to strengthen the sense of community amongst young people living far from their homeland.

# ANIMATING THE YOUNG

Shenbaganur - Christodayam, the Catechetical Department of the Salesian Province of Trichy, India (INT), in collaboration with Don Bosco Aid, Ireland, organised a three-day course leading to a catechist certificate. The Emmaus retreat, held in Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal, from 17 to 19 July 2026, brought together 28 catechists and young people from the Madurai Zone as part of the INT Province's New Evangelisation initiative. The certification course served as a fundamental training module aimed at deepening the participants' faith, fostering an experiential encounter with the Risen Lord through Sacred Scripture, and preparing catechists and young people to become missionary disciples capable of strengthening their parish communities.





## REFLECTIONS



### ON SALESIAN Charism

Don Bosco gave a short presentation at the end of a day to the Salesians or the boys or both and it became known as the 'goodnight'. Recently Fr Jorge Crisafulli, the Councillor for the Missions, gave a 'Goodnight' to the Rector Major and the other Councillors in Rome.

Fr Jorge spoke about the need to provide close support to young missionaries and referred to the 1,953 Salesians who went to the missions between 1969 and 2026. He stated that 663 are still in mission territories, 466 have died, 137 have changed their destination, 393 have left the congregation and 720 have returned to their province of origin.

Fr Jorge indicated that these figures highlight the urgent need to review the processes of discernment, selection and formation of missionary candidates and the congregation is responding to this issue. Fr Jorge concluded his reflection with three convictions: the missions are not "just another sector", but "a primary and necessary means of renewing the apostolic vitality of the Salesian Congregation"; Don Bosco envisaged a Congregation born and raised as a missionary body, and the missions remain "the privileged place where the Salesian charism unfolds its full educational, social and pastoral potential"; finally, the mission "involves everyone" and is "a spirit that permeates all our sectors, all our regions and our houses".



**FR CRISAFULLI**

**COUNCILOR FOR THE MISSIONS**

# COMMUNICATION OF Heart

Fr Fidel said, “often, when we talk about communication, we immediately think of websites, social media, videos, newsletters, publications and other platforms. These are important tools, but they are merely the visible expression of something deeper.”

The primary task of communication, he emphasised, is not to produce content, but to build communion. The Delegate for Social Communication is not simply the person in charge of the media: he is a fosterer of a culture of communication within the province. Communication begins from within – in the way we listen to one another, in the way leaders share their vision, in the way communities discern together, and in the way confreres build trust and fraternity.

“The challenge before us,” concluded Fr Orendain, “is not simply to increase communication activities, but to recognise communication as a vital dimension of Salesian animation – a way of strengthening communion, sharing our charism, accompanying our confreres and making Christ known to young people.”

**FR FIDEL ORENDAIN**

COUNCILOR FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

# TIMES ARE Changing

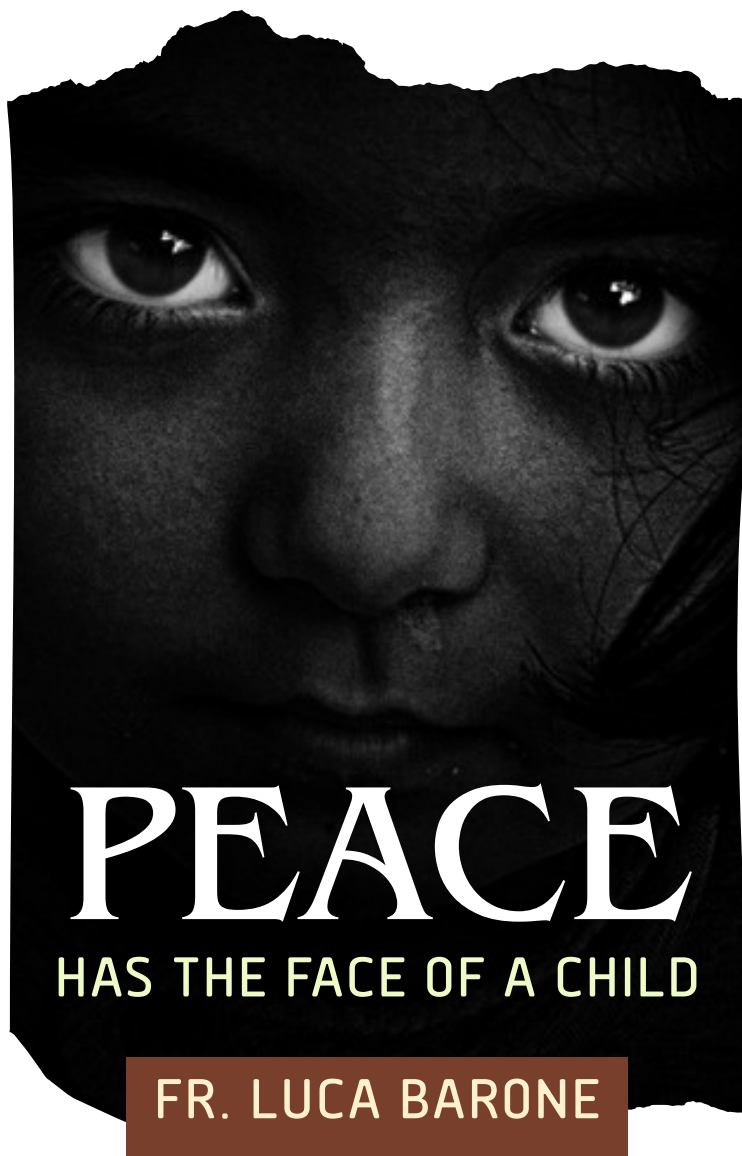
Fr Rafael reflection on pastoral conversion as a necessary path for updating Don Bosco’s Preventive System in the face of the challenges facing young people today.

“Times are changing,” observed Fr Rafael: today’s young people live in a plural, often fragile and fast-paced digital world, marked by new forms of educational deprivation such as isolation, loneliness, identity crises and relationship difficulties. The heart of the Preventive System – Reason, Religion and Affection – remains valid, but must be interpreted and practised using up-to-date tools and sensibilities.

Consecrated persons, laypeople, public and private bodies, families and young people build the educative and pastoral plan together; this is not “a document detached from their reality”, but the framework that guides daily life – timetables, activities, relationships and educational choices. For this reason, Fr Rafael emphasised, conversion must be shared, participatory and rooted in community life, with a voice and responsibility for every member: the Rector, the educators, the catechists and the young people themselves.

**FR RAFAEL BEJARANO**

COUNCILOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



Fr Luca Barone, President of Missioni Don Bosco, visited Ukraine in June this year to monitor initiatives supported by Missioni Don Bosco in that country. Ukraine was invaded by Russia over 4 years ago and both countries have been at war since.

In his report, the following are some of the things Fr Luca observed.

Travelling in Ukraine today means accepting that there are no easy answers. The streets speak of fear; the cities cry out in resistance. It is a journey that asks you to strip away your certainties and clothe yourself in compassion.



It is a journey that disarms you because you realise that there are no safe routes when pain is widespread, but there are paths of humanity that no bomb can sever. Peace is not something you simply pass through: it is built step by step. Peace is not the silence of weapons (which is still slow in coming), it is the sound of children who carry on playing in the courtyards of the Salesian houses. It is an open notebook, a lesson that never stops, a comforting caress.

It is a building site, and the Salesians are the workers on this site: with hands stained by the daily grind and hearts purified by the gospel. There, education becomes a prophetic act. The Salesians are there, alongside the young people, safeguarding their dreams when everything seems intent on shattering them. Their mission is simple and radical: to be present. To stay when it would be easier to leave. To believe when everything invites despair. They offer a listening ear when the world screams; they offer stability when everything is crumbling. They welcome displaced children, support wounded families, and educate for peace through genuine, everyday relationships.



# Ordination: NIGERIA

The Salesian Province of Africa Nigeria-Niger (ANN) celebrated a day of great joy on Saturday 1 August 2026 in Obosi, Nigeria, when five new priests and seven new deacons were ordained. The celebration, which took place at the St John Bosco Chapel in Obosi, Ibolu, was presided over by Archbishop Valerian Maduka Okeke of Onitsha and marked the Province's first diaconal ordination since its establishment in 2022.

Fr Michael Casey, from the Irish province, took part in the celebration. During Mass, Archbishop Okeke urged the new ministers to purity and fidelity; whilst the Superior of ANN, Fr Peter Morba, reminded them of the Salesian charism: "The gravest sin would be to abandon vulnerable young people." At the end of the celebration, Fr Dominic Ndubuizu, one of those ordained, expressed his gratitude on behalf of everyone to the bishop, the formators and the families.

## 5 PRIESTS & 7 Deacons

Two of the newly ordained, Fr Michael Takim and Fr Lucien Chinonso joined the Irish province four years ago. We look forward to welcoming them back to the province as Salesian priests. We give thanks for the gift of their vocation and pray that their ministry is blessed in abundance.



# Commitment to Our Common Home

## SOLAR ENERGY

The Salesian St Dominic Savio Province of Manaus, Brazil have installed solar panels at the Provincial House in Manaus, and at the Salesian Community in Maturacá, located in the Upper Rio Negro region. The project promotes the use of clean, renewable energy, reduces environmental impact and ensures better conditions for the Salesians to carry out their educational, pastoral and social activities, reaffirming the province's commitment to integral ecology and care for our Common Home. For over 60 years the Salesians have been present in Maturacá, where they share daily life with the indigenous Yanomami people. The mission carries out ongoing work in education, evangelisation and pastoral care, offering continuous support to families and promoting human dignity; over time, it has become a key reference point for the missionary presence in the region.

With the installation of 26 solar panels, the community now has a system capable of fully meeting the energy needs of the religious house and part of the school and parish. The result is significant: the use of the diesel-powered generator has been reduced by around 90%, lowering operating costs and reducing the environmental impact.

The installation of the solar systems demonstrates that innovation, environmental responsibility and missionary work can go hand in hand. By investing in renewable energy sources, the Manaus Province is strengthening its capacity to serve Amazonian communities, ensuring greater resources for its educational, pastoral and social activities.



# important dates

## COMING UP

|           |                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 August  | International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples      |
| 6 August  | Feast of the Transfiguration                             |
| 6 August  | 1945 Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima                    |
| 12 August | International Youth Day                                  |
| 15 August | Feast of the Assumption of the Mother of God into Heaven |
| 16 August | Birthday of St John Bosco                                |
| 19 August | World Humanitarian Aid Day                               |
| 22 August | A Day to Remember Victims of Violence Based on Religion  |

Many thanks to our colleagues at the Mission sector in Rome for the material forwarded and their inspiration.

Many thanks to you, our readers and supporters for your time, interest and support. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know at [dba@donbos](mailto:dba@donbos)



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# CAGLIERO 11

newsletter for Salesian  
Missionary Animation



Publication of the missions sector for SDB communities and friends of the salesian mission



*Dear friends,*

today the oratory is as big as a city. Large cities are one of the most pressing frontiers of our mission. There we meet young people full of dreams and possibilities, but also marked by loneliness, anonymity and a search for meaning. It is precisely there, at the heart of everyday life, that God awaits us.

As the Salesian Family, we are called to be a presence that listens, accompanies and builds community. Don Bosco taught us that every young person carries a seed of goodness in their heart, which needs to be welcomed and nurtured in order to blossom.

Evangelising in the city means building bridges where there is distance, fostering encounters where indifference prevails, and offering hope where many have stopped believing in the future. With missionary creativity and a Salesian heart, let us continue to make Christ's love visible in the new 'courtyards' where today's young people live and dream.

May Mary Help of Christians accompany us on this journey.

■ Fr Rafael Bejarano SDB  
General Councillor for Youth  
Ministry

## Evangelizing big cities: a new Salesian frontier for our time



During a recent visit to Manaus, capital of the Brazilian Amazon, I met "urban missionaries"—young people and adults who proclaim the Gospel in this metropolis of 2.5 million inhabitants. Some welcomed them with joy; others rejected them. Such is the reality of evangelization in today's great cities. More than half of humanity now lives in urban areas marked by diversity, mobility, technological connectivity, and profound social inequalities. When the General Council met Pope Leo XIV, he encouraged us to keep proclaiming the Gospel courageously in these megapolises, developing an "urban pastoral ministry" able to understand the language, culture, and challenges of city dwellers.

There, many young people experience loneliness and fragmentation. Many are indifferent to faith or simply "dormant." Yet many others are searching for meaning, friendship, belonging, hope, and light. Pope Leo never tires of calling us to become a missionary Church. Evangelizing today's cities requires a Church that goes beyond its buildings and becomes present in families, schools, universities, workplaces, social networks, cultural centres, and above all among those on society's margins. Today, there is no need to cross oceans or deserts to be missionaries: it is enough to step outside our homes, communities, and schools to encounter vulnerable children and young people. Evangelization means creating spaces of encounter where young people can experience God's love and mercy.

Where many feel anonymous and isolated, our Christian and Salesian communities can become places of belonging and fraternity, opening pathways to faith and holiness.

This challenge calls for creativity, courage, and collaboration. Together—local Church, Salesian Family, laypeople, educators, parents, and the young—we are called to bring the Gospel into the heart of urban life through communion and service. Let us not miss it!

■ Fr Jorge Crisafulli SDB, General Councillor for the Missions

### FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

- Where in your daily life might you meet someone looking for meaning or friendship?
- Do you feel you are more like those who welcomed the missionaries with joy, or those who were indifferent?



# FROM BRAZIL TO KENYA: SALESIAN VOICES FROM THE BIG CITIES



*Dear Peter and Jean, you both live and work in a big city. What is the biggest challenge you face when trying to build genuine relationships with the young people who live there?*

PT: It is difficult to reach deeply into their lives because they spend much of their time using technological devices. They live in their own small world, where a constant flow of diverse information attracts them. This gradually distances them from real relationships. As a result, they feel lonely in their life.

JK: The context in which we live and work in southern Brazil presents us with a major challenge: that of reaching out to young people in the midst of a reality characterised by a fast pace of life, inequalities and, at times, profound loneliness. Forging genuine bonds requires a close, simple and joyful presence, one that is capable of listening, engaging in dialogue and offering support, as emphasised in *Evangelii Gaudium*.

*Don Bosco used to meet young people in the streets and squares of his time. What are the new 'streets and squares' of today's cities, and which creative approaches really work in your context?*

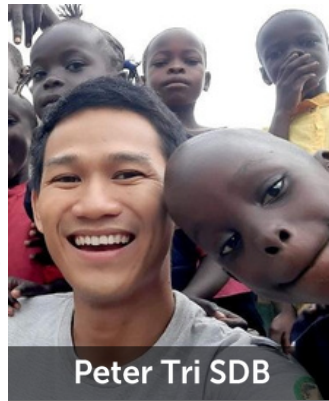
PT: Those are like in the classes or clubs where they can share (ideas and abilities); playground where they can enjoy; social media where we keep communication. At all times, young people get out of loneliness when they feel trusted, valued and accompanied by Salesians. In my mission, a competitive approach in sports and music activities are effective.

JK: Today's 'streets' are social media, schools, city centres and the fringes of society. In our context, an educational, family-oriented and welcoming presence, inspired by the *Magnifica Humanitas*, enables us to gain young people's trust and open their hearts to the Gospel.

*What would you say to a young Salesian who is just starting his mission in a big city — perhaps feeling overwhelmed or unsure of himself?*

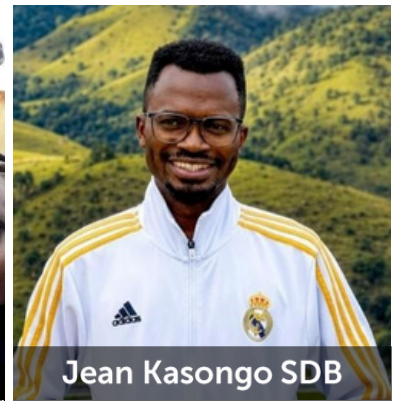
PT: Before you are accepted, first accept them with respect, perseverance, patience, joy, and enthusiasm. Invest in your personal growth and develop your talents, especially by staying updated with modern trends and the realities.

JK: To a young Salesian, I would say: take heart and have faith! Start by being present, approachable and genuine. Here, young people are looking for credible role models. Like Don Bosco, always believe in the power of closeness, kindness and joy.



**Peter Tri SDB**

I am originally from Vietnam. After completing my initial Salesian formation — pre-novitiate, novitiate and post-novitiate — I was sent on mission to South Sudan, where I undertook my practical training from 2022 to 2024. I am currently studying theology in Nairobi, Kenya.



**Jean Kasongo SDB**

I am originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (AFC); I hold a degree in general pedagogy and a university diploma in philosophy and educational sciences, and I am a member of the 154th missionary expedition. Since 2024, I have been carrying out my mission in the Salesian Province of Brazil-Porto Alegre (BPA).



## AUGUST SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTION

## EVANGELIZATION

For evangelization in the city

[Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention]

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.





IMMACULATA

CONCEPTIO



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