



# Salesian Family Snippets



*News of the Salesian Family Near and Far*

## ► **THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR**

We believe that we must continue to build a better world.

## **GROWING THE SALESIAN FAMILY**

The Salesian Matrix helps us reflect on our experiences with our hearts and, thus, helps us grow in wisdom.

## **A WHOLE NEW VISION OF LIFE**

Read the personal testimony of how a young student was affected by her school's mission trip to Mexico.





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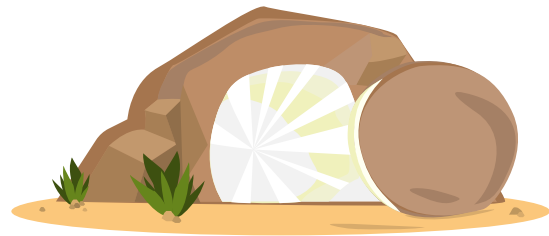
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## IMPORTANT DATES



**April 2:** Palm Sunday and Beginning of Holy Week  
**April 3-7:** Double Good Fundraiser (click [here](#) to participate!)  
**April 6-8:** Sacred Paschal Triduum  
**April 9:** Easter Sunday



Visit

<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/sf-snippets-archives/>  
 to read and download this issue and previous editions.

*Cover photo, photos featured on the "In This Issue" page, and back cover photo all courtesy of Canva Pro*



*The Rector Major during his visit to India in March 2023  
Photo by Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)*

## **The Message of the Rector Major**

God gave Don Bosco a large heart without limits, like the shores of the sea.  
I feel the beating of that heart every day.

THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

His name is Alberto. She's a young mom whose name I don't know. He lives in Peru; she in Hyderabad, India. What unites these two life stories is that I met each of them while carrying out my mission of service—in Peru for the one—and the following week in India for the other, the young mother. What they have in common is precious: they experienced God's caress in the welcome that Don Bosco once gave each of them in one of his houses, changing their lives, and saving them from the situation of poverty—and perhaps death—to which they were doomed. I think I can say that the fruit of the Lord's Passover is also communicated through human gestures that heal and save. Here are the two stories.

I was in Huancayo, Peru, a few weeks ago. I was about to celebrate the Eucharist with more than 680 young people, members of the province's Salesian Youth Movement, and several hundred people from that city high in the mountains of Peru (10,400 feet above sea level) when I was told that a former student wanted to greet me and that he had traveled almost five hours to get there—and would travel another five hours back

home. I replied that I would gladly greet him and thank him for his beautiful gesture.

The moment came before Mass when a young man approached me and told me how happy he was to greet me. He told me his name (Alberto), and added, "I'm here because I wanted to make this trip to thank Don Bosco in the person of the Rector Major because the Salesians saved my life." I thanked him and asked why he was telling me this. As he continued with his testimony, each word reached deeper into my heart. He told me that he had been a difficult lad, giving a lot of trouble to the Salesians who had welcomed him into one of the homes for at-risk children. He added that they would have had dozens of reasons to get rid of him because, he said, "I was a poor devil who thought I could only expect some more evil, but they had a lot of patience with me. Thus, I was able to continue on my path and kept studying. Despite my repeated rebellions, they gave me new opportunities again and again. Today I am a father, I have a beautiful daughter,

and I am a social educator. Had it not been for what the Salesians did for me, my life would be very different, if not already over."

I was speechless and very moved. I told him that I thanked him very much for this gesture, his words, and his journey and that the example of his life said everything. He even referred to a Salesian who was present at that time and who had been one of his teachers. He spoke of others who had shown great patience with him. This Salesian, smiling—and I think with great joy in his heart—confirmed the young man's story. Later, we sat down to a meal together before he returned home to his family.

Five days after having had this encounter, I was in the south of India, in the State of Hyderabad. One afternoon, in the midst of numerous greetings and activities, a young mother was awaiting me with her six-month-old daughter at the reception area of the Salesian house. She wanted to greet me. The baby girl was very beautiful. Since she showed no fear, I was able to hold her in my arms and bless her. We took some photos together, at the request of the young mom.

That was the sum total of this encounter: there were no other words spoken. Still, she has a difficult yet beautiful story: this young mother was a girl picked up from the street where she was living, alone. It's easy to imagine what her fate could have been. In the Good Lord's Providence, she was found one day by the Salesian who had begun the ministry to the street children in Hyderabad, bringing them into a Salesian house. She was one of the girls who was able to live in a house with other girls. Along with the other teachers present there, my Salesian confreres ensured attention to all their basic needs and their training. This is how this girl was able to forge a path for herself that would lead her to become what she is today—a wife and mother—and, something else that I believe is precious: a teacher in the Salesian school where we met. This is the key to how many lives can be transformed for the better.

How could I not see in these two stories the Hand of God reaching us through the good we're able to do? All of us are the ones who, in whatever part of the world, in whatever situation of life and profession, believe in humanity and in the dignity of every person. We believe that we must continue to build a

better world.

I write this because good news must be made known. Bad news spreads by itself or through people who have an interest in it. These two life stories, so real and in such proximity, confirm a thousand times over the value of the good we all try to do.

I wish you all a happy Easter from the Lord! To those who don't share this faith certainty, I most cordially wish all good things.



## In, With, and For the Church



Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA

Photo courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

## To Be Good, Holy, and Simple A Message from Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA

GATHERED BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA,  
AND MISS JULIA ST. CLAIR,  
SUE PROVINCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

*On Sunday, March 19, the Traditional Feast of St. Joseph, the Salesian Family and the Salesian Sisters learned great news. Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA, had been appointed provincial of the SEC Province, while Sr. Thuy Huong Nguyen, FMA, was appointed provincial of the San Antonio Province. Here are some beautiful words of wisdom from Sr. Colleen after the announcement of her appointment.*

I was professed in 1992, so I've been a Sister for 31 years. At that time, I offered my life for the young people I would encounter; little did I know then that I would be seeing and dealing with so many young people! I've taught everything from kindergarten to senior year of high school, been assigned in New Jersey, Florida, and even Egypt, and had quite a few years promoting vocations in our province. These various works and places have helped me to know how beautiful the next generations are and how much goodness for the future the Lord has instilled in the young.

When Mother Chiara called me, I was surprised to see her phone number. Mother Chiara has over 10,000 daughters, and I thought, "How on earth is she calling me?!" Then I thought there must be some mistake. Maybe my number is switched with someone else's in the Sisters' list of emails and phone numbers. When we spoke, I tried to tell her how disorganized I am and suggested a few other people I thought would be good for this job. Yet she said every Sister has imperfections, and asked if I would serve in this role.

I had the fortune of being raised by two very holy parents. RoseMary and Joe Clair lived their faith in very practical ways and helped us to grow as men and women of faith. I will entrust this work to their prayer, as I know they loved the Sisters very much and always supported our mission financially and with their work and ideas. I will also lean heavily on Bl. Sr. Eusebia (Yoo-SAY-be-uh) Palomino, FMA. This holy Sister worked in the kitchens of our houses for many years. I love her example, because while people may look at the Superior and say, "How holy," chances are that there are many Sisters behind the scenes, working hard and sacrificing themselves for the good of the young. This is the type of Sister I've always wanted to be: good, holy, and simple.

The Salesian Sisters are still very little known in the United States. We are a growing Order of Religious Sisters, one of few orders in the US with young women professed and young women in formation. The greatest thing our friends and supporters can do is to share the news about the work we do with friends and family. Spread devotion to Mary, the Powerful Help of Christians, and let people know that there is a group of Sisters who love the young and want only to help bring Christ



Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA, with Mary Help of Christians Academy students  
Photo by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA

to the young and the young to Christ.

I am excited to continue to grow the Salesian Sisters in North America. When I was promoting vocations, people would often ask me if the Salesians are in Wyoming or North Dakota or some other place. I would regularly answer, "Not yet." This new work allows me the possibility to dream of all the things that the Sisters can do, all the places we can work, and all the paths, especially the path of holiness, that we can travel!

*The next paragraph contains advice that Sr. Colleen would like to share with young women who are discerning and considering taking the next step toward the Salesians.*

Never be afraid. The Lord can never be outdone in generosity. You may think, "Lord, I'm giving you my whole life," but this life is so small and so short to give and the return offer is not just a life, but **eternal** life. Don't think twice about trying religious life! I was so scared before I entered, and then by entering, I found so much joy. I wish I could go back and tell my younger self not to hesitate and not to be afraid. This is the most beautiful life I could have chosen, and, given the opportunity, I would choose it again and again!



*Fr. John Ferrazza, SDB  
Photo courtesy of Salesian Provincial Archive*

## **Salesian Pioneers in North America** *Fr. John Ferrazza, SDB*

BY FR. MIKE MENDEL, SDB

Fr. John Ferrazza's name probably surfaces among American Salesians only when it comes up in the necrology for September 30. Yet he may be ranked among the pioneers of the SUE Province and in fact was the first Salesian ordained for the Eastern U.S.

John Ferrazza was born at Bocenego (Trento), Italy, on Jan. 23, 1858, and worked, among other occupations, as a knife-grinder and tool sharpener. He entered the Salesians as a "late vocation" at Parma in 1895, did both philosophy studies and novitiate (and served as infirmarian) at Ivrea in 1897-1899, and made perpetual vows on October 1, 1899. He arrived in New York on February 16, 1900, his passage paid for by funds that Fr. Ernest Coppo had sent to Fr. Rua.

Fr. Rua described 42-year-old Bro. Ferrazza to Fr. Coppo: "as fine a cleric as you could hope for, ready even to cook if need be." He was to study theology while assisting his confreres in their ministries among the Italian immigrants of Manhattan. He not only studied and ministered to the immigrants, but he was also sacristan for the Italian basement church at St. Brigid

and did house chores.

When the Salesian community of three priests, two clerics, and one coadjutor relocated from their East 12th Street apartment to the rectory of Transfiguration Church on Mott Street and assumed responsibility for the parish on May 1, 1902, Br. Ferrazza was among them.

In order not to abandon the Italians of their first ministry at Saint Brigid's Church, the Salesians hired a secular priest, Fr. Mauro, to continue their pastoral care, paying also for his apartment; on Sundays Br. Ferrazza walked from Mott Street to 8th Street to assist him.

So desperate was Fr. Coppo for another priest that he was pressing the superiors in Turin to allow John Ferrazza to be ordained before he had completed his theological studies. On June 1, 1902, Fr. Julius Barberis wrote to Fr. Coppo that the seminarian had been approved by the superior chapter for reception of tonsure and the four minor orders. But on no account could he be advanced to the subdiaconate until

he had completed more of his studies, regardless of his mature age and New York's needs.

The superior chapter approved Bro. Ferrazza for ordination as subdeacon in January 1903, provided that he had completed the necessary number of theological tracts. He was ordained subdeacon on April 5 and then deacon on April 19, during Easter week. On June 6, 1903, Fr. Ferrazza was ordained at Saint Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop John Farley.

That summer, the Salesians accepted Archbishop Farley's offer to use the former seminary at Troy, and a boarding school-novitiate was opened. Fr. Ferrazza was put in charge of the first group of students and went to Troy on August 17. There were 16 boys when classes began in September.

A new batch of missionaries arrived in New York at the end of October and were welcomed on Sunday, November 1, with entertainment and speeches in the theater at Transfiguration. The personnel selected for Troy were given some time to adapt to America before being sent up there; once they got to Troy and settled in, on December 5 Fr. Ferrazza returned to Transfiguration to reside there and resume his pastoral care of the Italians at Saint Brigid.

During Fr. Paul Albera's visitation in 1903, the Italians worshipping at St. Brigid had petitioned for the Salesians to return among them. So they did on February 8, 1904, in the person of Fr. Ferrazza, who went with an aspirant and

a friend to room with Fr. Mauro and that priest's relatives at 299 E. 8th Street.

By early 1906, Fr. Ferrazza was being assisted by two other Salesian priests. Initially, he held the titles director-pastor for the Salesian community serving Saint Brigid's Italians. As the validity and even the urgency of founding a distinctly Italian parish in the Immaculate Conception-Saint Brigid neighborhood intensified, petitions to that effect were sent to Fr. Rua by Frs. Coppo, Borghino (the provincial), and Ferrazza. Fr. Rua responded to Fr. Coppo: "We will take into consideration the information that you have offered, as well as what Fr. Ferrazza sent." (Such plans were coordinated with New York's chancery, of course.)

The Salesians purchased buildings at 429-431 East 12th Street in 1906. They resided in one and converted the other into a chapel to serve the Italian populace. On July 16, 1908, the parish of Mary Help of Christians was canonically erected with Fr. Ferrazza as pastor. Subsequently, he served in 1909-1910 under Fr. Frederick Barni as the community's prefect (treasurer) and then was an assistant at Transfiguration in 1911-1912 while also acting as confessor for two convents and the Salesian school at Hawthorne, NY. He served as a provincial counselor, 1906-1909.

He returned to MHC as pastor and director in 1913 and remained until 1916, when he was transferred to Holy

Rosary Parish in Port Chester as pastor and director, remaining there until his death. From Port Chester he continued as confessor for Hawthorne until the school was destroyed by fire in December 1917.

A biographical sketch records that he showed "great practical common sense. Though he was not exceedingly learned, he solved complicated moral problems. Though he was not a pulpit orator, his simple words sank deep down into the hearts of his hearers. In Port Chester, as well as in NYC, he was the favorite confessor of his parishioners as well as of several religious communities." The major note of his Salesian life was one of sacrifice "on the altar of duty."



Fr. Ferrazza suffered a stroke at an unrecorded date in 1921 that caused a "creeping paralysis." A tireless worker in the Lord's vineyard, only reluctantly did he gradually give up his pastoral ministries of visiting the sick, hearing confessions, and finally of celebrating Mass. He resigned himself patiently and made sure all his affairs were in order. He died at Columbus Hospital in New York on September 30, 1921, and was buried in Port Chester. His remains and those of 7 other confreres were transferred in 1926 to the new Salesian cemetery vault at Goshen. In 1938 those 8 remains and 4 more were moved to the present cemetery.



*Sr. Elfe Del Rosario, FMA, taking notes during the Salesian Matrix workshop  
Photo by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA*

## **Growing the Salesian Family** *The Salesian Matrix*

BY SR. PATRICIA MELANSON, FMA

On Saturday, March 18, the provincial councilors, animators, DREs, and those in other leadership roles of the SEC Province had the privilege of participating in a workshop given by Sr. Mary Greenan, FMA, on "the Salesian Matrix." She designed this tool for both the FMAs and those with whom we collaborate in our ministries. However, the Salesian Matrix is more than a standard assessment tool—it is a reflective instrument. It identifies and elaborates upon the five elements Sr. Mary has identified as essential to our Salesian charism and then provides a "performance assessment grid" that offers an individual or group a concrete way to evaluate their praxis of one or more of those five essential elements in their ministry. This is done by observing actions and identifying levels of attainment.

We practiced using the Salesian Matrix in small groups and shared how the characteristic elements listed in it are already in practice and celebrated in key life moments in our ministries—or not. We all felt that it will be valuable to make this reflective assessment with the adults and young collaborators in our Salesian ministries. The Salesian Matrix helps us reflect

on our experiences with our hearts and, thus, helps us grow in wisdom—both as an individual and as a community. It helps us assess the quality of the growing movement of the Salesian Family, comparing how we love with how God loves those entrusted to us in our Salesian presences.



By analyzing our effectiveness in these areas, it seeks to help us transform ourselves to become ever more an expression of God's Love in our mission. This, in turn, helps the person, community, or group of colleagues integrate the Salesian Preventive Spirit into the various relational and apostolic encounters of the mission, in a better way. It will accompany us on our journey, through our experiences of generating active communities of faith, and enable us to extend hope-filled activities to our local realities so as to reach out to those most in need, with Don Bosco' Preventive heart.



## Salesian Oratory Fest & Salesian FAMILY Festival 2023

OCTOBER 6 (DAY) 8AM-4PM  
JR. & SR. HIGH-SCHOOL-AGED EVENT

OCTOBER 6(VIGIL)-8 AGE-APPROPRIATE  
ACTIVITIES: PRE-K TO YOUNG ADULT

*"Out of Darkness and into His Marvelous Light: The Joy of Love"*



DYNAMIC & ENGAGING SPEAKERS; SHARING; MAGIC SHOW; *Laudato Si'* & INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES; WITNESS TALKS; GAMES; "STREET FAIR"; HOLY MASS, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, HOLY ROSARY, CONFESSIONS; RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, YOUNG ADULTS, DATING & ENGAGED COUPLES; VOCATION BOOTHS

- What is the "Theology of the Body"?
- What SHOULD I do when dating?
- How can I find and prepare for my vocation in life?
- How can I speak the truth in charity about identity/gender issues? New Age trends? False and harmful ideologies?
- How can I break out of loneliness and feeling "I don't belong" or "measure up" to all I see on social media?
- How can I be a faithful to God even when I feel confused or in doubt and how can I help my friends, too?
- What can I learn from Don Bosco about relationships?
- If God is so Good, how come there is evil in the world?
- Does God really love me? Will He forgive me?
- How can I help make our family a *domus ecclesiae* (domestic church)/become involved in the Church?
- How can I become stronger in my Faith and help my friends who have left the Church/do not believe?
- Are science and our Faith enemies?

*Find answers to these and so many other questions!*

### IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO VOLUNTEER, AND/OR TO REGISTER: SCAN THE QR CODE

or go to <https://donboscosalesianportal.org/salesian-family-festival-october-2023>



*Updated advertisement for the Salesian Family Festival in English (top image) and Spanish (bottom image)  
Designed by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA*

## Fiesta del Oratorio Salesiano y Fiesta de la FAMILIA Salesiana 2023

6 DE OCTUBRE (DÍA) 8AM-4PM  
EVENTO PARA NIÑOS DE EDAD DE LAS  
ESCUELAS INTERMEDIA & SECUNDARIA

6(VIGILIA) AL 8 DE OCTUBRE  
ACTIVIDADES APROPIADAS PARA LA EDAD:  
PRE-KÍNDER A ADULTO JOVEN

*"De las tinieblas a su luz admirable: el gozo del amor"*



ORADORES DINÁMICOS Y ACOGEDORES; INTERCAMBIO; SHOW DE MAGIA; *Laudato Si'* & ACTIVIDADES INTERACTIVAS; TESTIMONIOS; JUEGOS; "FERIA DE LA CALLE"; SANTA MISA, ADORACIÓN DEL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO, SANTO ROSARIO, CONFESSIONES; RECURSOS PARA NIÑOS, ADOLESCENTES, JÓVENES, Y NOVIOS; AYUDA VOCACIONAL

- ¿Qué es la "Teología del Cuerpo"?
- ¿Qué DEBO hacer cuando tengo citas?
- ¿Cómo puedo encontrar y prepararme para mi vocación en la vida?
- ¿Cómo puedo decir la verdad en caridad sobre los problemas de identidad/género? Tendencias de la nueva era? ¿Ideologías falsas y dañinas?
- ¿Cómo puedo salir de la soledad y sentir que "no pertenezco" o "estoy a 'good enough'" de todo lo que veo en las redes sociales?
- ¿Cómo puedo ser un fiel a Dios incluso cuando me siento confundido o en duda y cómo puedo ayudar a mis amigos también?
- ¿Qué puedo aprender de Don Bosco sobre las relaciones?
- Si Dios es tan bueno, ¿cómo es que hay maldad en el mundo?
- ¿Dios realmente me ama? ¿Me perdonará?
- ¿Cómo puedo ayudar a hacer de nuestra familia una *domus ecclesiae* (iglesia doméstica)/participar en la Iglesia?
- ¿Cómo puedo fortalecerme en mi Fe y ayudar a mis amigos que han dejado la Iglesia/no creen?
- ¿Son enemigas la ciencia y nuestra fe?

*¡Encuentra respuestas a estas y muchas otras preguntas!*

### TODO SE TRATA DE RELACIONES

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, SER VOLUNTARIO Y/O REGISTRARSE: ESCANEE EL CÓDIGO QR  
o vaya a: <https://donboscosalesianportal.org/fiesta-de-la-familia-salesiana-de-octubre-de-2023>





*Le Salésien students who journeyed to Mexico City for their mission trip  
Photo by Fr. Alain Léonard, SDB*

## **A Whole New Vision of Life** *Le Salésien's Mission Trip to Mexico City*

GATHERED BY FR. ALAIN LÉONARD, SDB

*The Jeunes Missionnaires du Salésien (JMS)—24 in number this year—experienced their mission trip in Mexico City from Wednesday, February 22, to Friday, March 3. They stayed in a Salesian house that welcomes adolescents both in boarding school and high-risk situations (ex. orphans, children from broken families and living on the street, others confronted with drug or alcohol problems, children in need of protection). These young people quickly became attached to us Canadians through cultural, sport, spiritual and gastronomic activities, and tourism, as well as manual labor.*

*Various fundraisers organized throughout the school year raised more than \$15,000 this year. Since 1995, nearly \$250,000 has been donated to the Foundation Dejame Ayudarte ("Let me help you").*

*I share with you the testimony of Rosemarie Lacroix, a 15-year-old student from Le Salésien in Sherbrooke, QC, Canada.*

It is under the winter sun that I return to Quebec, with a heavy heart, but a head full of memories. I spent the last 10 days accompanied by 24 other young people living in a Salesian boarding school where 25 Mexicans live who were not endowed

with the same luck as us from birth. From hours spent playing soccer with the little boys to praying and talking about shared life with the older ones, I realized that no teacher or math class was going to teach me more than these young people did during my trip.

From the moment I stepped off the green bus that took us from the airport to the boarding school, I fell in love with each of the 25 pairs of brown eyes staring at me, their faces all smiles. I had never witnessed during my journey, even in the most pampered neighborhoods, such a great atmosphere of *joie de vivre* that reigned in one place. I never thought it would have been there, wedged between a corn tortilla stand and a slum on the mountains, that I would have found more happiness than I have seen in my entire life.

In these young people, due to the fact that they are about my age but three times my life, resides an almost supernatural force, which perhaps explains why they get up every day with huge smiles stamped on their faces. From



*Le Salésien students and young people in Mexico  
Photo by Fr. Alain Léonard, SDB*

my first steps on Mexican soil, I realized that, even if these children had had a thousand times fewer opportunities than us, they were a thousand times happier.

It was after a few days at the institute that the young people began to confide and open up to us, helping them to heal and grow. I understood that, despite the stereotypes about these little boys, most had been placed in boarding schools because their parents did not have the time or the skills to take care of them. Some of them came from single mothers and abusive families. It made me realize how our problems, which sometimes seem as big as the world, could not be more trivial.

There is also often a huge problem with self-confidence in these young people. Unlike most of us, who were raised in loving families, they have never had adequate emotional support or simply a parent behind their shoulder to say that they are beautiful, good, and capable. To make matters worse, no Mexican advertisement features a dark-skinned individual, all beauty standards and ideals are built around the dream of being born white.

One day, I was talking with a 12-year-old boy. While we were playing together, I asked him who of his school friends were the three most beautiful in his opinion, in order to make him



*Rosemarie Lacroix and a young boy in Mexico  
Photo by Fr. Alain Léonard, SDB*

laugh. He thought about it for a few seconds, swinging his ball from hand to hand, then he replied to me: "They are all ugly." I asked him why he would say such an atrocity, thinking he was joking, but he confirmed his words by looking me straight in the eye: "Because they are all dark and dark-skinned, it cannot be beautiful." It was then that I realized the extent of the impact that society and the lack of love had on these young people. This little talk, among the most significant of my trip, really broke my heart.



These ten days in the company of these children have been an incredible learning experience in every way. I deeply wish to never forget the lessons of life that these little souls have unknowingly passed on to me. It is said that travel broadens the mind. On returning from this experience, I can say with confidence that these Mexicans have forged in me a whole new vision of life.



Fr. Peter Gonsalves, SDB  
Photo courtesy of Vatican Radio Archives

## Parenting the "Don Bosco Way"

BY FR. PETER GONSALVES, SDB

*The complete article was originally printed in The Examiner of Mumbai in January 2004. With Fr. Peter's permission, we will re-print it here in Salesian Family Snippets one section at a time over the coming months as a means of preparation for our Salesian Family Festival 2023.*

### Part I

Parenting is one of the most challenging tasks facing 21st-century parents. Their homes are suddenly bereft of walls as they find themselves and their children exposed to ideas and opinions that blow in from all corners and that seldom take responsibility for the consequences they have in the lives of their recipients.

In this six-part article, I wish to present very briefly the educational principles of Don Bosco (1815-1888)—that saint of the Catholic Church acclaimed by John Paul II as "father and teacher of youth," on whose educational philosophy nearly 2500 initiatives for young people all over the world have their foundation. I present these articles *as an educator* in the hope that parents of all religions and cultures may benefit from the wisdom of Don Bosco—a wisdom, to which, so many millions of ex-students across the world look back in gratitude.

The pedagogy of Don Bosco may be retitled for our times as the 'pedagogy of expression' because it is a system of education that is designed to enable the child to grow fully and freely into the kind of person he or she is "meant" to be. Don Bosco himself called his educative method "the preventive system—a name he chose to contrast it with the "repressive system" in vogue during his time. The latter was a type of education that used fear of punishment as the basis for control. In contrast, Don Bosco's preventive method would seek to "prevent" the very need for punishment by placing the child in an environment in which he/she is encouraged to choose the "good" rather than the "bad." In positive terms, this environment would create a healthy, congenial, and friendly atmosphere in order to elicit the best that the child has to offer—the child's complete self-expression.

### *The Repressive Method*

The repressive method of education—which Don Bosco abhorred—is a style of parenting used so often by many parents even to this day. This is probably due to ignorance, or confusion, or often in sheer exasperation at not being

able to cope with the challenges of parenting and family life. It seeks to maximize control over children, to keep a "safe distance" between parent and child, and to dictate laws that are followed up by harsh punishments. Looked at closely, such a system of education sees in the child a potential threat to parental authority. Parents who lack self-esteem tend to use precisely such a method in order to exercise control over their children. It may seem to work—things do get done—but only up to a point. Children act out of fear, not of conviction. Children obey simply because they are scared to disobey.

When fear dominates a parenting relationship, the child's growth to maturity is seriously affected. Comparisons become the norm. Self-esteem and self-confidence disappear. Dishonesty thrives. Living up to others' expectations matters most. Children wear masks. Dependency increases. Enthusiasm disappears. Children brought up in such a climate are never sure of themselves. And if they happen to succeed, their success is a performance to their parents' tune.

It is also important to note here, that the consumerist culture has spawned more benign forms of the same repressive method of education. It consists, not in instilling fear, but in using a type of control mechanism that is based on one's "purchasing power." The parents 'buy' the obedience of their children through the lavishing of expensive gifts and tempting promises. This is a form of repression that was unheard of in Don Bosco's time—but is nevertheless subtly dangerous. Here again, things get done, but never for the right reasons. The child develops a propensity for greed and selfishness. He/she begins to believe that the only way to live successfully is by "having" more. Only later the pampered child will have to face the bitter truth, that success from having things does not, of itself, bring happiness.

#### *About the Author*

*Fr. Peter Gonsalves of the Mumbai Salesian Province is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Social Communication Sciences (FSC) at our Salesian Pontifical University [Università Pontificia Salesiana (UPS)] in Rome. The Salesian Rector Major appointed Father Gonsalves the FSC dean on September 24, 2015. He is the first non-European to hold that post in FSC, which was established in 1988. Gonsalves pioneered media education in India since 1984. He is a communication research analyst of*

*Mahatma Gandhi's sartorial/nonverbal communication. On April 12, Pope Francis appointed him as one of 13 new consultants for the Vatican's Secretariat for Social Communications.*



## In the Salesian Family Know



*Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB, flips through his baby book  
Photo by Mrs. Cindy Woolldridge, Salesian Cooperator*

## **Salesian Family Gatherings** *Celebrating Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB*

BY MISS JULIA ST. CLAIR,  
SUE PROVINCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR,  
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON  
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On Saturday, March 25, around 50 Salesian Family members— including SDBs, FMAs, Salesian Cooperators, Fr. Tom's family members, lay collaborators, and a past pupil who was working at the venue—gathered together at the Ramsey Golf and Country Club to celebrate Fr. Tom Dunne's 80th birthday.

It was a beautiful afternoon full of Salesian joy and presence. We were so blessed to be with Fr. Tom and his family and share in memories from Fr. Tom's childhood. We were also grateful to Ramsey director Fr. Abe Feliciano, who guided us through Fr. Tom's life and journey as a



*Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB, on his actual birthday a few days before the party  
Photo by Fr. Abraham Feliciano, SDB*

Salesian, from creating the first Salesian Leadership Retreat to serving as provincial and now being the SDB Province Delegate to the Salesian Family, just to name a few of his many assignments!



*Salesian Family gathers to celebrate Fr. Tom Dunne's 80th birthday  
Photo by Mrs. Cindy Wooldridge, Salesian Cooperator*

Thank you, Fr. Tom, for the gift of yourself and everything you have done for our province and Salesian Family! Many thanks to everyone who came from near and far!



*Miami Salesian Family at their Lenten retreat  
Photo by Mrs. Dory Anselmi, Salesian Cooperator*

### ***Salesian Family Lenten Retreats***

BY MRS. DORY ANSELM (MIAMI), AND  
MR. CHRIS YARNOLD (TAMPA),  
SALESIAN COOPERATORS

*On Saturday, May 4, the Salesian Family celebrated Lenten Retreat in four areas of Canada and the Eastern U.S. Here are two testimonies from the retreats that took place in Miami and Tampa.*

The Miami Salesian Family was blessed with an impressively large attendance for a Lenten retreat at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hialeah, FL. Together with the church's parishioners, the Salesian Family—including ADMA, Cooperators, and alumni—shared our faith following Don Bosco's footsteps.

The theme by Fr. Isidro Perez focused on Sunday's reading on the Book of Genesis, the reflection on Abraham's complete trust in the Word of God, comparing Abraham's full trust in God as Mother Mary, full trust in God's will and plans for her. In Luke 1:26-38, "Let it be with me according to Your Word," we saw Mother Mary place total trust in God's will. Fr. Isidro continued to invite us to imitate both pillars of our faith. In Mother Mary, to trust God without being hesitant about His plans for each of us, though, being very attentive about our attitude and reactions to God's



Fr. Jay Horan, SDB, leads Tampa Salesian Family members in a fellowship and talk  
Photo by Mr. Chris Yarnold, Salesian Cooperator

plans, in both challenges and blessings. Our attitude makes all the difference in what the final outcome will reveal and with confidence in our heavenly Mother Mary, the outcome will always be favorable! We concluded the retreat with a *Via Crucis* and closed it with a Mass, along with the beautiful Mary Help of Christian statue and Don Bosco relic. Thank you to our Heavenly Father for allowing this productive retreat for the Salesian Family and to all the people involved who cooperated to fulfill this mission.



Tampa Salesian Family at their Lenten retreat  
Photo by Mr. Chris Yarnold, Salesian Cooperator

The Tampa Salesian Family participated in the parish retreat at Mary Help of Christians. They then set aside time for Salesian Cooperators and Aspirants to gather for fellowship and a talk from Fr. Jay Horan, SDB.

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Promotional image for the Mornese Experience  
Designed by Sr. Elfie Del Rosario, FMA

## Salesian Family Opportunities

### *Mornese Experience*

The Mornese Experience is back! Are you a young woman who wants to immerse herself in the spirit of Mother Mazzarello? We'd love you to join us in June!

See the image above for details and *register* today!



### *Come and Visit*

Also, stop by for a "Come and Visit" with the Salesian Sisters in New Jersey! They'll take place during the following weekends:

**April 27-30**

**May 23-25**

**August 3-6**

Click *here* to learn more!



### *Double Good Fundraiser*

Check out the exciting opportunity taking place this Holy Week on the next page!



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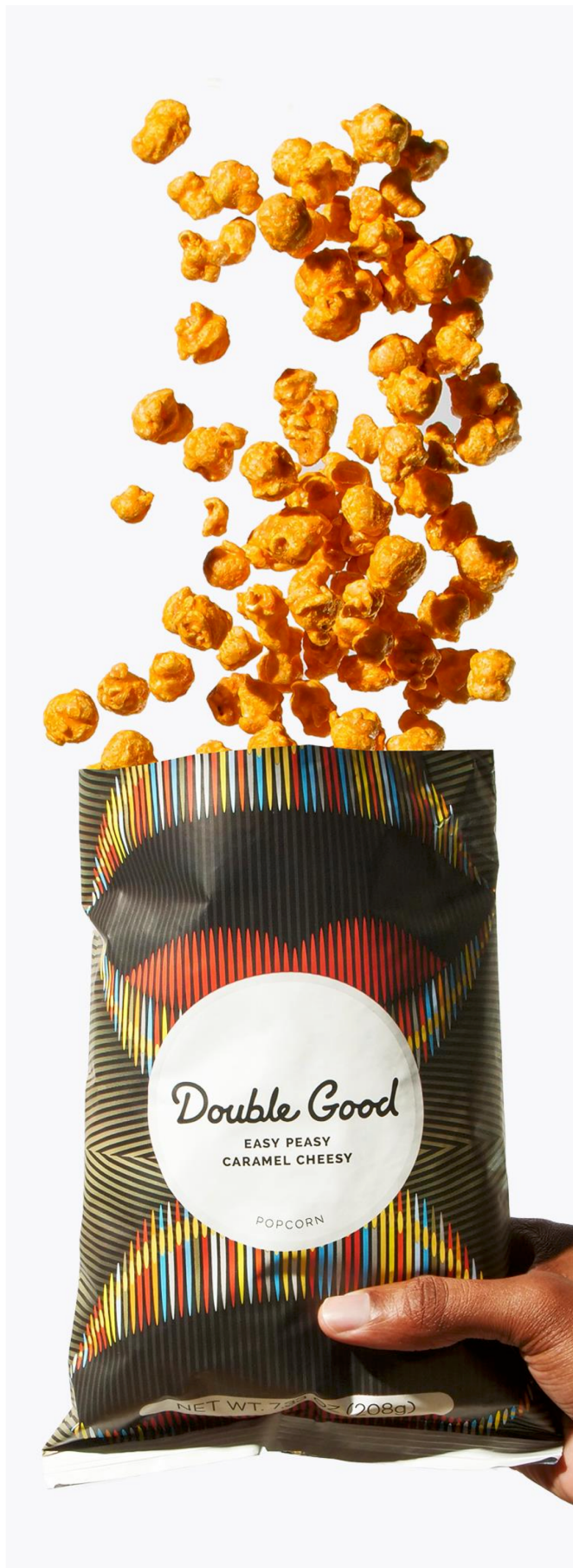
**Starts: Monday, April 3, 2023, at NOON ET**

**Ends: Noon on Good Friday, April 7, 2023**

**CLICK HERE:**

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*Promotion for Double Good Fundraiser*

*Designed by Double Good Double Good and updated by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA*





# Our Family Album



*Requiescant in Pace*



*Fr. Chuong in Rosemead  
Photo by Fr. Thien Nguyen, SDB*

**Fr. Paul Chuong  
Nguyen, SDB**



*Jose Gutierrez, Salesian Family  
Photo courtesy of Fox Funeral Home*

**Jose Gutierrez,  
Salesian Family**



*Jane Jackson, Salesian Cooperator  
Photo courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA*

**Jane Jackson,  
Salesian Cooperator**



**Let Us Rise Up  
Through God's Love**



**Maria Auxilium Christianorum,  
ora pro nobis!**



**"The Lord always blesses those who  
are obedient to His commands."**

**- St. John Bosco**

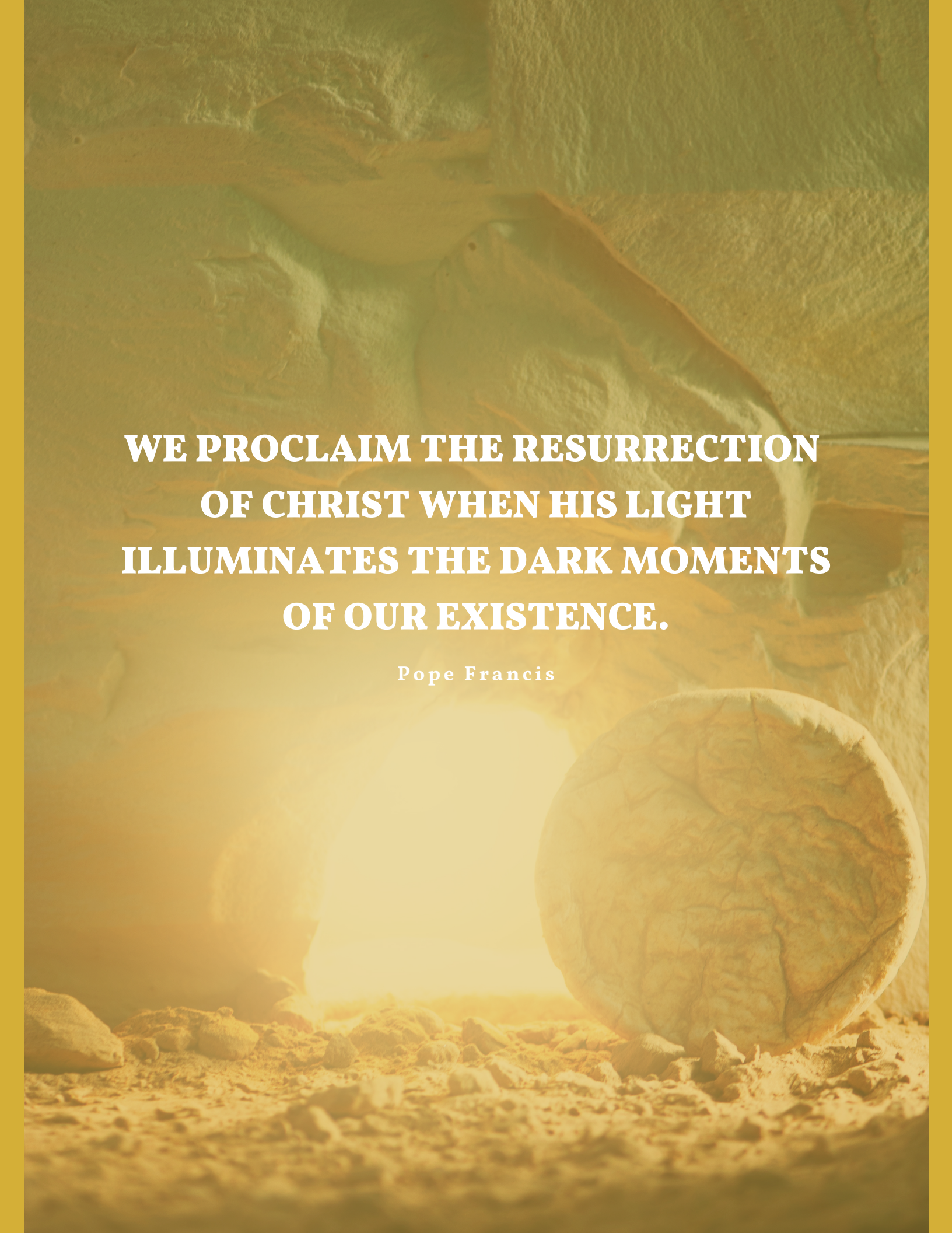


Our email address is:

**contact@donboscosalesianportal.org**



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A photograph of an empty tomb. A large, smooth, light-colored stone is rolled away from the entrance of a dark, rocky cavity. The scene is illuminated by a warm, golden light that creates a strong glow and lens flare effect, suggesting the rising sun. The ground is covered in small, light-colored rocks and pebbles. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and new beginnings.

**WE PROCLAIM THE RESURRECTION  
OF CHRIST WHEN HIS LIGHT  
ILLUMINATES THE DARK MOMENTS  
OF OUR EXISTENCE.**

*Pope Francis*