

Helping youth build a better future

Salesian Missions NEWS DECEMBER 2025

Dear Friends

As we come to the close of another year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support, generosity and trust in our mission. Your commitment continues to bring hope, dignity and opportunity to thousands of young people around the world.

This Christmas, I also wish to express a very special word of gratitude to Olga, who will be transitioning into retirement at the end of February 2026, after an extraordinary 46 years of dedicated service. Olga has always seen her work with Salesian Missions as her *vocation* and her passion, faith and tireless commitment have shaped this mission in profound ways.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Olga for the past 15 years, and I know how dearly she will be missed. She has worked with hundreds of Salesian priests, brothers and sisters, helping them deliver vital projects for vulnerable youth across the world. While she may be retiring, she will always remain a cherished member of our Salesian Family. I warmly encourage you to reach out to Olga to share your thanks and good wishes with her.

Your support this year has enabled remarkable work, including:

Egypt – Don Bosco Alexandria: Scholarships for disadvantaged students and tailoring courses for refugee youth, helping them develop skills for self-employment and independence.

Vietnam – Vocational Training Centre: Funding sports and music training for poor students, promoting their physical and mental wellbeing, motivating them in their studies and helping them discover their talents.

Tigray, Ethiopia – Br Bullo: A growing sponsorship program providing essential needs for families living in extreme deprivation, often in makeshift shelters made from plastic and cardboard. Your support offers stability, education and hope for children who face daily insecurities.

These projects continue the spirit of St John Bosco, lifting young people toward brighter futures.

As Christmas approaches, please accept my warmest wishes to you and your families. May this season bring peace, joy and renewed hope.

With gratitude,



Tina Newton
Director,
Salesian
Missions
Australia

Short farewell message from Olga

Dear Friends,

After 46 years with Salesian Missions Australia, I will be retiring at the end of February 2026. My journey with the Salesians of Don Bosco began in 1980 when Fr Jim Carroll knocked on my door in Chadstone and invited me to help in the office. What started as a few hours a week gradually became a lifelong vocation.

I have been truly blessed to work alongside so many dedicated staff and to form meaningful relationships with our generous donors over the years. Supporting St John Bosco's mission to assist those in need through disasters, wars and countless worthy causes has been an extraordinary privilege. I never imagined in my youth that I would dedicate my life to such a mission, but I am grateful to have been part of the worldwide Don Bosco Family.

I will miss you all and send my warmest prayers and best wishes to everyone who has connected with me along the way.



In St John Bosco, God bless

Olga



Emergency Relief in Cebu – Standing with Our Salesian Family After Typhoon Kalmaegi:

On 3 November 2025, Typhoon Kalmaegi became the 20th severe storm to strike the Philippines this year. It claimed 288 lives, caused widespread flooding and displaced over 500,000 people, with Cebu suffering the greatest devastation. The disaster came just weeks after the 6.9 magnitude earthquake on 30 September, leaving communities overwhelmed and vulnerable.

Continued over

Emergency Relief in Cebu – *Continued.*

Seven Don Bosco Salesian Centres and Parishes in Cebu have experienced extensive flooding and major damage where roofing was torn off, trees uprooted, and essential materials and equipment were destroyed.

The worst impact, however, was felt in Liloan, at Don Bosco Boys' Home and St. John Bosco Parish, where floodwaters filled buildings with knee-deep mud and forced families to evacuate.

Fr. Eugenio shared:
"When the typhoon struck, Don Bosco Boys' Home became knee deep in muddy water as well as St. John Bosco Parish. The entire ground floor was covered in mud too. People had to evacuate from their homes and go to the parish's second floor for safety. So many families have asked for help."

Despite their own losses, our Salesians immediately provided shelter, food, clean-up assistance and pastoral support to affected families. Their presence has brought comfort and hope; however urgent needs remain.

Salesian Missions Australia is launching Emergency Relief for Don Bosco Boys' Home in Liloan, Cebu to support:

- Temporary housing for residents
- Clearing mud and debris
- Repairing and rehabilitating buildings
- Restoring the flood wall and gutter protection system

Your support will help the Salesians rebuild and continue serving the young and vulnerable during this critical time.

We ask for your help to provide Don Bosco Cebu with the support they urgently need.



India – Supporting Youth towards Independence.

Fr Edwin D'Souza reports that Don Bosco Salesians in Mumbai are transforming young lives by supporting shelter homes, placing abandoned and runaway youth into trade schools and organising study classes in villages without schools. They provide career guidance, counselling and job placements, while extracurricular programs are creating new employment opportunities for tribal youth, helping them build brighter independent futures. Fr Edwin continues to express his gratitude for your long-valued support.





Timor Leste – Transforming Lives Through Learning

Don Bosco Agricultural School Fuiloro, Timor-Leste has been serving its community for 77 years, shaping future leaders since its founding in 1958 including the current Minister of Agriculture. Since 2000, with the generous support of our donors, Salesian Missions Australia has helped bring hope, opportunity and dignity to countless young people. Your contributions have enabled vital infrastructure improvements such as roof renovations, new ceilings in the Boarding House, a new canteen and ongoing building maintenance. These upgrades ensure a safe, dignified learning environment where students can grow, gain skills and build brighter futures for themselves and for Timor-Leste.

BEQUESTS

Continue to make a difference

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will. It is an act of generosity that can continue into future generations. By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as the beneficiary of a fixed cash amount or a percentage of the estate will ensure that the funds are dispersed to the project of your choice. For further information, please contact the Salesian Missions Office 03 9377 6060 or by e-mail salmiss@salesians.org.au or our website for more information.

MAKE A DONATION

As Banks are in the process of transitioning away from cheques thus making it increasingly difficult for some donors to support our work. Please contact our office so that we may offer a solution.

To Deposit into our bank account:
Account Name: Australian Salesian Missions Overseas Aid Fund
BSB: 063 003
Account Number: 0012 7879
Reference: Donor Number.

For online donations
visit our secure website www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au

ASMOAF – SALESIAN MISSIONS

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❑ Alleviation of poverty ❑ Most Needed
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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