



Salesian Missions

# World Bulletin

*Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions*  
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

## Salesians Struggle to Rebuild Schools and Other Facilities Devastated by Hurricane Katrina

The fury of Hurricane Katrina has caused extensive damage to Salesian schools, churches, and other buildings in the Gulf Coast and the future remains uncertain.

Just this past summer, the Salesian campuses were bustling with activity as the buildings were being readied for the hundreds of children returning for a new school year.

But everything changed in a single day.

In New Orleans, 557 of our students were left with nowhere to go as the storm devastated Archbishop Shaw High School. On the grounds of St. John Bosco Parish, St. Rosalie Middle School also sustained major damage. The roof was torn off, furniture and supplies were destroyed and fallen trees lay



*Hurricane Katrina severely damaged St. John Bosco Parish, but the Mary, Help of Christians statue still stands.*

through broken windows. St. John Bosco Church also lost stained glass windows that were blown out by the wind.

While the students and families were forced to evacuate, many of the Salesians remained in their buildings so that they could offer immediate assistance following the hurricane.

More than 2,000 families were affected by the destruction caused to Salesian schools and parishes in the New Orleans area.

Today, the rebuilding efforts are underway, but it will be some time before life returns to normal. Thanks to many of our caring donors across the country, in addition to assistance from the U.S. military, the situation is going as well as can be expected.

There is a long road ahead in the rebuilding process. The physical damage and emotional scars will take many months – and perhaps years – to repair. While uncertainty looms, the citizens of New Orleans can be assured that the Salesians are fully committed to the rebuilding effort.

## This Month's Children



Names: Machile, Mbegu,  
Ndebeto  
& Machaku

Ages: 11, 9, 7, 5

Home: Dodoma, Tanzania

Three brothers and one sister are among the many children who know firsthand the hardship and death caused by the AIDS virus sweeping through Africa. The four young siblings are now orphaned after both parents have succumbed to the deadly disease.

Sadly, the story of Machile, Mbegu, Ndebeto and Machaku is all too common. In their homeland of Tanzania, nearly 40% of all adults between 18 and 45 years old are afflicted with AIDS.

The death rate among parents with children is staggering... and the number of orphans is overwhelming.

In response to this epic crisis,

the Salesians have established several programs to prevent the spread of the disease, while reaching out and helping those affected ... especially the innocent children.

But because he must provide for his family, Machile does not go to school. But thanks to caring friends like you, Mbegu, age 9, and his sister Ndebeto, age 7, have been enrolled in first grade at a nearby Salesian elementary school. The youngest boy, Machaku, hopes to enter school next year.

A few months ago, the fate of these children was dismal. But today, there's new hope for opportunities that lie ahead.

## This Month's Call For Prayer

*The devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has hit close to home ... As we try to resurrect our damaged schools, residences and parishes, please pray that the families most affected by the disaster have the strength, resources and willpower to recover from this tragedy. Let us also keep them in our prayers as we count our blessings during this holiday season.*



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In Africa...

The governments of southern Africa have issued an urgent appeal for international help in coping with widespread famine.

Severe weather in the region has seriously damaged this year's harvest, while the AIDS epidemic has decimated the workforce at many farms. The World Food Organization estimates that 8.5 million people are affected by the famine and that the death toll will be staggering without immediate financial assistance.

The Salesians have missionaries stationed throughout the region and are offering as much assistance as possible. Backed by your generosity, we are hopeful that thousands of families will be spared.



## In India...



After floods devastated several elementary schools in Bombay, many young children were left without school supplies and books.

That's when older students from nearby Don Bosco Institute decided to pay a visit and lend a helping hand. Amazingly, they were able to distribute 3,810 donated school books to those in need.

While the efforts benefited thousands of youngsters, it also had a positive impact on the older kids who participated. Said one enthusiastic DBI student, "The smile on the faces of the children gave us immense satisfaction."

Clearly, the experience in giving was a valuable and rewarding lesson for everyone involved.

## In Uruguay...

There are 18,000 children living in the countryside of Uruguay who are denied the chance for an education because they live too far from a school and are too poor to pay tuition.

Thanks to the Salesians and friends like you, however, the situation is becoming brighter.

So far, Salesian schools in the remote regions have provided secondary education and agricultural training to 1,600 students free of charge.



What's more, the Salesians recently opened a new school and center that will serve an additional 370 children and adolescents.

While the lack of education is still a major problem, the Salesians – with your help – are making great strides.

## Missionary of the Month: Fr. John Bosco Kurahashi Terundobu

Father Kurahashi has spent the last 25 years as a Salesian missionary in Bolivia. In that time, he has been completely dedicated toward education, social welfare and human rights.

His courageous actions and practical approaches have touched thousands of lives. The impact of his compassion and commitment has been enormous.

As a testament to his remarkable achievements, Father Kurahashi was recently honored with Bolivia's highest recognition: the Libertador Simon Bolivar Award. In a grand ceremony presided by the Bolivian Ambassador to Japan, Father Kurahashi was recognized for his work and praised for his efforts.

In his typical low-key manner, Father Kurahashi responded very simply, "I thank the Lord every day for giving me the grace to live for the young."

While his words are few, the inspiration speaks volumes. We congratulate Father Kurahashi and are proud to be associated with such an outstanding individual.

## A Disturbing View of Poverty and Despair

Dear Friends,

The images of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will be etched in our minds for many months to come. We will certainly remember the damage caused by record storm surge, catastrophic winds and unexpected flooding.

But what I think will haunt us most are the disturbing images of poverty and suffering within our own country. I've lost count of how many times I've heard people say, "I can't believe

this is the United States ... it looks like a third world country."

For perhaps the first time, our nation got a sobering glimpse of what many of our Salesian missionaries see every day. It's a disturbing view of how many people lead their lives.

Hopefully, this realization will inspire more people to lend a helping hand. In the meantime, however, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your generosity



and support. You clearly understand the importance of our work and the meaningful impact we can make together. May God bless you!

*Brother Emile*



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