



World Bulletin

Fall 2019

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

Refuge and Redemption in the Philippines

Edmar’s original dream, when he first came off the streets, was simply to finish his studies. Then he became interested in the art of dance – and now aspires to do much more. Thanks to the opportunities afforded him at the Tuloy Foundation in Muntinlupa, he dreams of opening his own dance academy and training other impoverished youth in his art ... for free.

Since 1993, nearly 20,000 girls and boys like him have transformed their lives at Tuloy. And, by all accounts, they owe their successes to its visionary founder.

He is Father Marciano G. Evangelista – nicknamed “Fr. Rocky” by the children. His mentorship of these children – all of whom he considers his own – has earned the foundation numerous local and international awards.

First launched in a 40-square foot room serving just 12 children,



Tuloy has exponentially grown in the years since – offering more than 800 abandoned, abused, and despairing street kids a safe, nurturing place to call home. As always, the program has remained true to Fr. Rocky’s mission of “redeeming them from helplessness and empowering them to do just right.” He and his dedicated staff achieve this through a holistic suite of services designed to restore the children’s hope by rebuilding their dignity.

“We are not here just to fill up their stomachs, to put

shirts on their backs,” Fr. Rocky explains – although Tuloy certainly does both. “We are here to develop the totality of the person, to give children self-confidence to face the world.”

In addition to shelter, health care, basic education and vocational training, Tuloy provides ample enrichment opportunities – such as dance and other expressions of art. This helps girls and boys learn discipline, respect, cooperation and other soft skills that they can apply in other areas of their lives. Today, Tuloy alumni live and work in places like Dubai, Riyadh, and Australia, serving as walking proofs of Fr. Rocky’s concept.

As for Edmar? His own developing self-confidence promises to serve him well. Having already performed in London, he is well on his way to fulfilling his dreams.

This Month’s Child



Name: Werkeneh
Age: 17 Years Old
Home: Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia

Werkeneh was just 11 years old when he first encountered an outreach worker from Bosco Children Project. Having ventured from his impoverished rural village in search of a job, this desperate youngster instead had landed on the streets of Addis Ababa – where he struggled, alone and scared, to survive.

Just several years later, Werkeneh has earned straight-As in his 10th-grade class at Don Bosco School in Mekanissa: an

achievement he directly attributes to the opportunities first afforded him at Bosco Children. In addition to shelter, meals, and counseling, the city’s only shelter for homeless youth offers basic education and literacy classes, which helped Werkeneh catch up on his studies and rejoin his peers in school.

“My life, I owe it to Don Bosco,” says the young man, who now aspires to contribute meaningfully to society by becoming a doctor.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

As we approach Thanksgiving, and then Christmas – a time when we give thanks for the blessings in our lives and celebrate the birth of Jesus – please remember in your thoughts and prayers all our suffering brothers and sisters of God who need our love and support.



Advent Devotionals - Sign Up Now: www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent

Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation. Our special devotional messages, emailed weekly beginning Sunday, December 1st, will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas – and will inspire and guide your own preparation for our Savior’s birth.

Monthly Missions Report...

In Ghana...

At the Salesian Agricultural School in Sunyani, youth at risk of migration are learning in-demand skills to help them earn a living safely at home.

First launched in 2016, 93 students have already graduated with advanced knowledge of organic farming practices and the use of greenhouses. This year, the top four received grants to launch their own small farming operations – the first step toward a broader effort to grow the country’s agricultural capacity, economy, and self-sufficiency.

Many students are returned migrants themselves, motivated to catalyze change in their communities. By demonstrating what’s possible, they hope to dissuade others from the perils of seeking fortune abroad. In turn, as more youth return to their homeland, they can help transform their country into a place where future generations can comfortably live.



In Myanmar...



From 1968 until his death in 2000, Fr. Fortuno Giacomini poured his heart into serving Anisakhan’s sick and poor. Under his leadership, what had once been a small infirmary soon grew into a flourishing clinic offering free, high-quality care to hundreds of patients in need.

Recently, the project re-opened under a new name: The Father Giacomini Clinic. Following the precedent he established, two volunteer physicians will see children and adults three evenings each week, with services set to expand as demand grows. Generous donors have already supplied necessary equipment and medicines.

While he won’t be there to greet them in person, patients are sure to feel the warmth of Fr. Fortuno’s smile from above as he witnesses this stewardship of his legacy.

In Nigeria...

Mothers in rural impoverished Nigeria will no longer spend countless hours searching for water, thanks to generous friends like you.

Many of these women traveled significant distances on foot, collecting and carrying home as many as 44 pounds of it on their heads for drinking, washing, and cooking. Often, the water wasn’t clean – but they had no other options.



Funded by our Clean Water Initiative, ten different communities now have their own source of local, safe water. New wells, pumps, electricity and plumbing deliver it in a steady stream through centrally located taps available to all.

In total, an estimated 169,000 people no longer worry where their water will come from – or whether it will make them sick when they drink it.

Missionary of the Month: Sr. Lucilia Teixeira Monteiro

For 42 years, Sister Lucilia Teixeira Monteiro has worked tirelessly to help Mozambique’s impoverished children and families achieve dignity.

Born in Portugal, Sr. Lucilia directs the Laura Vicuña Center at Inharrime – where an orphanage, secondary school, and adult literacy program are transforming thousands of lives. Often, when among the little orphans, she recalls her late mother’s example.

“We were poor, but she didn’t like to see a photo of her daughter unless she was perfectly tidy,” she says. And so, every child under Sr. Lucilia’s care is always clean – even if she must walk nearly five miles to collect a 20-liter bucket of water!

Ever grateful for her opportunity to serve, Sr. Lucilia wakes at 5:00 each morning to pray for her vocation in communion with her fellow Salesian sisters.



“I thank God every day for calling me to serve the poor,” she says. “This is my mission for as long as He wills it.”

Soaring Achievements

Dear Friend,

Often, as I read through an issue of our *World Bulletin*, I’m struck by something: a thread of commonality woven throughout its stories in a way that warms my heart.

This time, it’s the theme of parenthood: how so many girls and boys who have never experienced unconditional love have found it – and reaped its rewards – in one of our programs.

Around the world, for so many children who come from nothing and believe they have no future, redemption arrives in the form of Salesians like Sr. Lucilia and Fr. Rocky. Acting as the mothers and fathers these boys and girls never had, our missionaries equip youth with the education, training and – most of all – self-esteem they need to spread their wings and fly.



None of this could happen without extended family members like you. My gratitude for your generosity is as boundless as the sky. May God Bless You!

Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB

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