



# SALESIAN MISSIONS NEPAL

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## Nepal Is Calling

The history of the Salesians in the country began in 1992 with the house of Dharan, in eastern Nepal, initiated by Fr George Alakulam. The Sons of Don Bosco then reached Sirsia (1996), followed by the capital, Kathmandu, with two centers - in Lubhu, established in 1996 and erected in 2000, and Thecho in 2001 - after which came Baroul and Chakkarghatty (2014) and, finally, Biratnagar in 2017 for a total of seven houses, animated today by 21 Salesians.

A glimpse of the blossoming of the Salesian charism in Nepal shows the Sons of Don Bosco engaged in a variety of ministries dedicated to the country's young people and faithful: two technical schools, four academic schools, three parishes, four boarding houses, several centers of non-formal education, a minor seminary, and a number of social programs, such as scholarships for students and emergency response projects - the aftermath of the tragic earthquakes of 2015, for example.

To this end, the Salesians, together with their vocational training students, have provided for the reconstruction of ten government schools, work funded by benefactors from all over the world, and carried out in close collaboration with the Nepal Reconstruction Authority.



The reality in which the Salesians operate today is that of working in a largely Hindu country, with just 7,000 Catholics out of approximately 29 million people. At the socio-political level in Nepal, a multiparty democracy under the monarchy was born in the 1990s after a period of political turmoil and constitutional changes. The 1991 Constitution granted the freedom to practice one's religion and, in memory of the first church built by the Capuchin three hundred years ago, a new church was erected in Kathmandu in 1995 under the title of Assumption of Mary.

## AN ANSWER TO THIS SUMMONS COULD BE THE BEST GIFT FOR THE ANNIVERSARY

"Nepal has been a periphery for too long and now needs proactive leaders, prophets and missionaries, dreamers, who are courageous and dedicated to disinterested service," the Salesians in Nepal comment today. "We can still hear Don Bosco's voice through the Rector Major's invitation to all the Salesians in the South Asia region. 'To you I ask for a strong missionary appeal in favor of our Salesian presence in Nepal (...) This is a good opportunity that we cannot ignore (...) It is a favorable opportunity for Don Bosco to reach our most abandoned brothers and sisters, who have greater needs, in the periphery of society.'"

# THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO VISITS KATHMANDU SALESIAN HOUSE



## COMMITMENT TO THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

On 16 June, the Apostolic Nuncio, Giambattista Diquattro, in India and Nepal, visited "Don Bosco Thecho" for the first time, one of the two Salesian houses in the Kathmandu valley. The meeting was attended by Msgr. Paul Simick, Apostolic Vicar of Nepal, members of the clergy and the Conference of Religious of Nepal.

All the participants shared with the Nuncio the

On January 11, 2018, the Nepal Don Bosco Society, dedicated a new, earthquake-resistant school in the remote village of Kallery. The ceremony, which represented the culmination of several years' work, signaled a new beginning for hundreds of children whose lives were forever altered by 2015's tragic earthquake.

In the aftermath of that disaster, which left survivors in desperate need of humanitarian aid Salesian missionaries responded immediately: collecting and distributing hundreds of tons of aid to thousands of victims in several isolated communities. They also built 21 temporary schools in order to ensure educational continuity for as many children as possible.

Father Augusty, Salesian Coordinator in Nepal, says "By using the aid provided to us to rebuild

nature of the charism and common mission in the area, the post-earthquake relief measures and various individual initiatives to serve the poor and the marginalized in Nepal.

The Nuncio, in turn, shared with the participants his opinions on the sharing of faith, the issues that arise between dioceses and religious communities, interreligious dialogue, the service of the Church. Finally, he emphasized the need to radiate inner joy as the first and best means to evangelize.



schools and communities, we show our commitment to the country and its people -- but above all, for the children and young people who need it most."

# YOUTH GRADUATE FROM DON BOSCO TECH, THECHO



A new batch of 30 trainees in both Tailoring and Beautician courses have skilled themselves at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Thecho. As these graduates grabbed their certificates with joyful faces, one couldn't but notice the determination on their faces to start a new phase of their life. They had six months of training in these respective courses.

Mr.Raj Kumar Khiuju, the DSP of the Chapagaon Police Station, while distributing the certificates directed them to start using their skill to build up a career and future. He stressed on the present need of having a training and certificate to earn a living and lead a decent life. A short program that was arranged, coloured with a couple of cultural items staged by the trainees themselves, brought out their talents as well.

In all we have trained about 642 students in the courses of Tailoring and Beautician. Our statistics states that from 2011 onwards 1768 students have graduated from the institute completing the various courses offered here. The institute, started in a humble way with just computer course, has currently 11 CTEVT (Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training) affiliated courses and a Diploma course in Electrical Engineering.

The institute is hoping to open up more Diploma courses and offer a short awareness programs for the government schools of the neighbourhood and neighbouring municipalities.

## 4TH INTER SCHOOL DON BOSCO RUNNING TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF



On Sunday, 12th August, 2018 the 4th Inter School Don Bosco Running Tournament kicked off with the theme ‘Sports a medium to accompany the youth.’ The Chief Guest of the opening ceremony was the Police Inspector of our Municipality, who invited the players to develop their talents and always to be a gentleman sportsman. This event is annually organised to help almost 200 youngsters to become confident about their skill in playing football. The tournament lasted for 13 days. The final held on 26th August 2018 (Sunday) was a spirited game between the two participating teams, who were the leading school football teams of the area. There were all together 14 schools participating in the tournament. It was a platform for the students of both Government and Private Schools to interact with each other and display and develop their talents. We continue to hope that more players from our villages will be able to climb up the ladder of excellence and to become great sportsman and good citizens for the country.



# NEPAL - 21 YOUNG SALESIANS FROM CALCUTTA PROVINCE REFLECT ON THEIR CONSECRATED LIFE



Kathmandu, Nepal - September 2018 - 21 young Salesians in their five-year session, and belonging to the Calcutta Province (INC), gathered in Kathmandu to reflect on their consecrated life, accompanied by the Provincial, by the INC Provincial Vicar, and by Fr Tomy Augustine. The participants expressed great satisfaction for having taken part in the meeting in Nepal, a missionary frontier of the Salesian Congregation. Fr Augusty Pulickal, coordinator in the mission in Nepal, stressed the need to move with a concerted effort for this mission's large territory.

# NEPAL - A MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR DON BOSCO

Kathmandu, Nepal - August 2018 - In the month of Don Bosco all Salesian schools in Nepal prepared celebratory events in honor of the Saint of Youth. One was the school of Sidhipur-Lubhu (Lalitpur District) which organized, for the third consecutive year, a festival called "Bosco Beats" which features performances of singing, dance and music, and saw the participation of six schools of the Kathmandu valley .



# MANAGING THE CURIOSITY GAP ON HOLIDAYS

Children enjoy unusual surprises, amazing, events that can boost their life and bring a fresh wave every moment. On the other hand, they could prefer to experience together with close friends, teachers, associated with a cozy and desirable outcome. And to begin with Don Bosco Dharan caters to that familiar shore of life to children, youth and their associated in a big scale whether it be on holidays, or other scheduled time. The first and foremost intention of all these activities are meant to bridge any gaps and zoom in the those distant leanings of the past, present and the results are always those spelt out by Don Bosco himself as “honest citizens and morally sound human beings of the country”. And here is a glimpse of 10 days long summer camp that Don Bosco Dharan Organised from 24th July ton 3rd August 2018.

There were 90 children who participated in the summer camp and they were of classes’ two to ten. The children were fortunate to have Sir Rohit Khawas a dance teacher by profession with multi-talented personality assisted by three more teachers and Fr. Kissun Tudu was at its helm to facilitate and co-ordinate summer camp events.



Children always enjoy explore the old in a new and creative fashion and here are some those highlighted events like pencil drawings, paper cuttings and decorations with natural objects, creative personality development with group singing and dances. And a grand finale was concluded to demonstrate those learned items on the stage in front of the 90 children’s parents, relatives and well wishers. And we had the ward member of toll number 16 as the chief guest to grace the occasion. Don Bosco Dharan has nothing to boast of as of now but to re-emphasize its presence among the locals and its neighbours.

**“There were 90 children who participated in the summer camp and they were of classes’ two to ten”.**

# Nepal Mission Orientation Programme

A three days intensive programme for the newcomers to the Nepal mission was conducted at Biratnagar, DonBosco Technical Institute, from 22nd.June to 25th. June 2018. Fr. MK Sebastian from Bangalore, Fr. Charles Arulappanfrom Trichy and Bro. MukeshGarasiyafrom Mumbai provinces were the participants of this four days’ intensive animation programme. Fr.AugustyPulickal, the co-ordinator of the Nepal mission, animated the programme. As part of the programme,the history of the Nepal mission was made known. The participants were informed about the various Salesian presences in the country and the scope of each house. It was an initiation into inserting oneself into Nepali milieu.

Whilethe morningsessionswere dedicated to the learning of the language, the evenings were spent visiting the other religious communities and village settings of the region. The participants also visited the Salesian presences in the region which included the houses of Sirsia, Dharan and Bharoul/Chakraghatti. At each place, missionaries were called upon to share their experiences and particularly the successes and struggles they encountered at the start of their work in Nepal. The new comers were made aware of the importance of immersing themselves into the mission and the need to reach out to the youth of Nepal who are searching for someone to show them the way and guide and mentor them in their journey through life.

The participants expressed their immense gratitude and satisfaction to the INC provincial and to Fr.AugustyPulickalfor taking initiative to



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organize this animation programme and to Fr. Mani the host of this memorable event. They three participants were very eager and enthusiastic to get immersed into learning the language, although the time was limited and assured their total dedication to the mission at hand in Nepal promising never to look back.

# THE INAUGURATION OF SHREESAGEN BAAL BIKASH

Every mighty edifice has a small beginning. This can be said very much about the play school, a Salesian initiative in a far flung village of Mohanpur – Shree SagenBaal Bikash.

This is one of the villages which was very badly affected during The Great Flood of Purbanchal, Nepal. During the relief distribution days, it was almost impossible to reach the Relief Materials to this village since it was almost submerged under water. During the post flood days, I happened to visit this village at the insistence of one of our Teaching Staff Mr. BudhrayMurmu. From then onwards it has impelled us to do something for this needy villagers; especially the poor and the marginalized children.

The Salesians have provided them GI (galvanized iron) Sheets, bamboos and teaching materials to the school as an initial take off. The GaonPalika too has granted them financial support to purchase a hand-pump, to build a toilet, to level the area with mud and to

purchase text books for the students. The students of Class IX and Class X of Don Bosco School Sirsia have contributed games materials, stationery materials to the children and have contributed manual labour by leveling the entry point of the village and teaching the children on the weekends. The villagers have given a small plot of land to make the school. On 15th April 2018, there was a solemn inauguration of this play school. The school was inaugurated by Mr. Kailash Prasad Mandal, the chairperson of the JahadaGaonPalika, by cutting the Red Ribbon. The occasion was graced by Mr. BhagwanBesra (The President of Ward No.7), Mr. Krishna Shrestha (The President of Ward No. 2), Mr. Ajay Singh (The HM of ShishvaniJahada) and other distinguished guests. The entire village had gathered for this auspicious occasion.

At present there are altogether thirty five students in the play school. The school begins at 10 am and ends at 2 pm. The children love to come to the school. They seem to be very talented. The villagers too take pride in having a school in their own village. Some of them even spend their time in the company of the children.

It is just a small initiative in a remote village. In due course of time it will grow and develop, and bear much fruit. There is a great possibility of having more children in the near future. Let us hope for the better future for these poor and marginalized children.

## ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED

The World Environment Day was celebrated at Don Bosco Chakrghaty and Baharoul, with great enthusiasm on June 5, 2018. In a special assembly, the Don Bosco Family demonstrated the good and the bad effects of the environment.

'The earth is our home and we need to take care of it more personally' said Fr Binu SDB the Rector of the School. During the occasion, the Fathers, teachers and students planted around 18 saplings around the school of both the campus. The students were asked to do the same around their homes. The School in both the campus also focused on general cleaning campaign. The focus was to "Beat Plastic Pollution" in order to "Save Our Soils".

