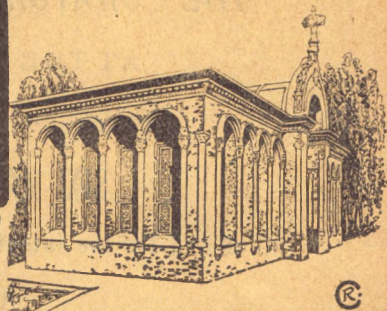


Vol. IV., No. 5.

May, 1903



SANCTUARY OF MARY HELP OF CRISTIANS



TOMB OF DON BOSCO

THE



ALESIAN BULLETIN



DON BOSCO

SALESIAN PRESS

TURIN

CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

FOUNDED IN FAVOUR OF

THE ORATORY OF THE SACRED HEART

AT THE CASTRO PRETORIO IN ROME

TO WHICH IS ATTACHED THE CELEBRATION OF

SIX MASSES DAILY IN PERPETUITY

offered for the intentions of those who make a single contribution

OF ONE SHILLING

ADVANTAGES.

1. During the erection of the magnificent Temple, recently consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, at the Castro Pretorio in Rome, it was established that, as soon as the grand edifice were finished, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and other prayers should be daily recited therein, and Holy Mass offered on Fridays for all Contributors to the Building Fund of this International Monument of devotion to the Sacred Heart. In order to augment these spiritual advantages and admit to their enjoyment a greater number of the faithful, the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been established in the above-named church; whereby all the members participate in the fruit of six Masses daily, in perpetuity, offered for the intentions of those who are inscribed in the books of the Association and have given an alms of One Shilling once for ever towards the Oratory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



2. Two of these daily Masses will be celebrated at the Altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, two at that of Mary Help of Christians, and two at St. Joseph's. We may remark that Don Bosco's venerable name is associated with the two last-mentioned Altars, for on them he offered the Holy Sacrifice during his last stay in Rome.

3. Besides the six daily Masses all MEMBERS, both living and dead, participate in the fruits attached to:

(a) The recital of the Rosary and the imparting of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which takes place every day in this church;



THE
SALESIAN
BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED AT THE "ORATORIO SALESIANO,"—VALDOCCO, TURIN, ITALY.

To your care I commend infancy and youth, zealously attend to their Christian education; place in their hands such books as may teach them to fly from vice and steadily walk in the path of virtue. (PIUS IX.)

A tender love of our fellow-creatures is one of the great and excellent gifts that Divine Goodness grants to man.

(St. FRANCIS de Sales.)

Redouble your energies and talents in the rescue of infancy and youth from the snares of corruption and infidelity, and thus prepare a new generation.

(LEO XIII.)

Vol. IV., No. 5.

May 15, 1903.

Registered for transmission abroad.

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Whilst this number of the *Salesian Bulletin* is sent to our Co-operators, near the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians in Turin the Congress will be holding its meetings, which will be followed by the solemn ceremony of the Coronation, and then by the feast of Mary Help of Christians.

All those who are unable to be present personally, are earnestly invited to take part in spirit by some special act of devotion in honour of our Heavenly Patroness, to approach the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, invoking the blessing of God on the labours of the Congress and on the Association of Salesian Co-operators.

MARY THE HELP

of Christians

Hic domus mea, inde gloria mea. These words, uttered once in reference to the place where now the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians rises majestically, return to our minds and to our lips but in a light and with a force unknown before. They contained an announcement and a promise, the import of which was gradually being unfolded before our eyes and which is seen to-day realised in a manner exceedingly beyond our most sanguine expectation, and with a splendour surpassing all that the boldest imagination could picture to itself.

Those words, besides a promise, reveal now a whole history of vicissitudes, a long chain of prodigies. Verily on that spot, the August Mother of God has since erected her throne from which she delights to lavish the gifts of her goodness, and display the efficacy of her intercession on behalf of mankind. Verily almighty God has made evident by countless wonders, that He has been pleased to proclaim from here to the whole world, the glory, the power of her to whom He has done great things.

This promise was the light, the strength, the comfort of Don Bosco. Like another Abraham, he hoped when all human aid and hope had deserted him. He hoped that a great work would be accomplished in spite of every opposition and obstacle raised, either by diabolical malice, or by the seeming prudence of human shortsightedness and calculations. And when even the faithful and intimate few began to waver, and to look upon his projects as the hallucinations and dreams of a deranged mind, he still held out, his confidence was not shaken, his hope did not abate; with the eyes of his soul fixed on that promise as on his polar star, he felt new trust and courage infused into his soul, and perhaps he contemplated these days from afar and rejoiced in them.

When the ground, trodden to-day by thousands and thousands of worshippers, was yet wild and strewn with briars and brambles;

when it was overrun by a motley, noisy crowd of boys and lads frequenting the chinky shed of Valdocco, Don Bosco would at times raise and direct our thoughts to the future, and say: "You will see, you will see what is to take place on this ground."

Later on, after much opposition and many difficulties had been overcome, the walls of the new temple began to rise as if by magic through the thank-offerings of the faithful, and we passed from surprise to surprise, from wonder to wonder. But above all, the festivities of the consecration filled us with admiration and all those who witnessed even a part of what happened on that memorable occasion. Don Bosco himself undertook to satisfy a common desire by writing a short record of those eventful days.

"The consecration of the Church dedicated to Mary Help of Christians in this city," he writes (1), "has been the object of many reflections and enquiries. Who could have attracted there so many people of every age, country and condition to take part in the services of a Church of which some had barely heard the name? Many have asked this question either personally or by letter. To satisfy these demands I bring out this account of what happened on that auspicious occasion. From the facts that are going to be related, it will be manifest what has been the cause of so extraordinary a concourse of people...."

And the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius IX, when he was acquainted with the facts, wrote to Don Bosco: "We have felt almost the same joy which you and the imitators of your zeal have experienced, when we came to know that the new temple had been brought to completion, and that it has now been consecrated to God and dedicated to the Name of the Most Blessed Virgin, Help of Christians...."

"We think that all this has not come to pass without divine disposition; namely, that whilst by irreligious men, an even fiercer war has been rekindled against the Church, the Celestial Patroness should be exalted with new honours under the title of Help of Christians."



Yet all that was only the beginning; we might call it the dawn of a brilliant day. Don Bosco in 1877 wrote as follows (2):

"We may well liken the devotion to Mary Help of Christians in these latter times, to the tiny cloud seen by the prophet Elias. In

(1) Bosco. *Rimembranza di una solennità, etc.* 1868.

(2) Bosco. *La Nuvoletta del Carmelo, etc.* 1877.

fact, but a few years have passed since the church at Turin was dedicated to the August Mother of God, under the title of Help of Christians, and that she commenced to be honoured and invoked under that gracious name; yet this devotion has spread so far and wide that there is hardly a hamlet in all Italy where it is not known.

“To Mary Help of Christians, invoked especially in her church at Turin, all classes of persons have recourse; the noble and the lowly-born, the wealthy and the poor, those in good health but most frequently the sickly and the afflicted.

“She is invoked by individuals and by families, by communities and by whole parishes, by whole towns and cities almost in every country of the globe. No day goes by but there arrive either persons or letters asking to have prayers offered up in her Sanctuary as at the throne of the heavenly and merciful Queen. In fact this devotion, this great confidence, this recourse to Mary Help of Christians goes on increasing among christian peoples, so that we may safely declare that a time will come, when every good christian along with devotion to the Most Holy Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, will profess a tender devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians.

“So many and so wonderful are the graces granted by Almighty God to those who invoke Our Lady under this beautiful title, that we are led to think that it is most pleasing to Him; graces so numerous, we said, for, if all the accounts sent in were to be published, they would fill a large volume annually. No doubt need be entertained of the veracity of these statements, for the original manuscripts are carefully preserved in the archives of the Sanctuary. Besides that, many of the accounts were accompanied by offerings for the Church itself, and many of those who received the benefits, marked the occasion by a return to a good christian life. Now every one knows, that especially in our busy times, no one would make such sacrifices without a very good motive, which in our case is the persuasion that God has granted them a special favour through the powerful intercession of Mary Help of Christians.

“But still, even the faithful accounts of the graces received, are far from giving an adequate idea of the countless favours obtained for those who are devout to Mary Help of Christians. The greater part of these are known to God alone, either because the recipients cannot send written accounts, or are not able to go personally to the sanctuary to give notice of them, or because they are of a spiritual nature; and it is not always agreeable to make certain evils and troubles known, such as family secrets and the like. But even more copious than the refreshing showers given by the little cloud seen by the prophet on Mount Carmel, are the blessings drawn down by this devotion over

the whole earth, and serve to make it loved and extended more and more.

“Thus while the evils both of body and of soul are assuaged and alleviated it causes christian virtues to flourish among the people and brings forth abundant fruits for Paradise; and this is the principal scope of this devotion.”



It is nearly a century since a Pope, great for his virtues and for his sufferings, after years of persecution, exile and imprisonment, was returning to the Apostolic See amidst the most enthusiastic demonstrations of joy from his beloved people. In those days of triumph, the great Pius VII turned his eyes and his heart towards Our Blessed Lady whom he had invoked so often and so fervently, and he wished to make a public solemn acknowledgment of the great favours he had received. Accordingly with his own hands the venerable Pontiff placed the diadem on her head, and the 24th of May, the day on which, in 1815, he entered Rome triumphantly, was fixed for a solemnity in honour of Mary Help of Christians, as a special and lasting record of so great a favour and as a perpetual act of thanksgiving.

Another Pope — he too illustrious among the great Pontiffs, in the year when he is acclaimed by the whole world; when proofs of esteem and admiration reach him from all parts as congratulations on a pontificate so long and so full of achievements of great and lasting import — prostrates himself before our Heavenly Patroness and lays at her feet the palms of victory, the tributes honour offered to him. Leo XIII wishes to link the memory of this auspicious year of his Pontifical Jubilee to a mark of honour, to an act of grateful homage to her under the title of Help of Christians.

Among the many titles by which the Holy Father, Leo XIII, will be recorded, not the last is that of a fervent client of the Blessed Virgin, whose honour and devotion he has promoted with all the industry which the tenderest love could devise and suggest. To whom are not known those precious documents of his great piety towards the Mother of God, those letters by which, year after year, he has been stimulating the faithful to the recitation of the Holy Rosary?

“Whenever an occasion offers itself to Us,” he writes in one of them (1), “to excite and increase amongst Christian peoples the love and honour of the great Mother of God, We are filled with pleasure and joy, as at a thing which is not only good in itself and fruitful in many ways, but also as one which most sweetly accords with one

(1) *The Rosary of Mary*. Encyc. 1892.

of the strongest inclinations of Our own heart. For piety towards Mary, which We imbibed with Our mother's milk, has increased exceedingly and becomes stronger and more firmly established in Our soul as We advance in years."

"Every day it appears clearer to Us how worthy she is of honour and love, since it was God Himself Who first honoured and cherished her, and marked her out with such predilection, that He raised her above all other creatures, and so endowed her with His richest favours as to choose her to be His own mother. The many splendid proofs of her goodness which We have received, and which We cannot recall without tears of gratitude, serve to nourish and excite even more ardently Our devotion towards her..."

"To Mary, Our sweet and benign mother, Our hope ever tenderly and joyfully turns. To her intercession We ascribe the many signal benefits we have received from God..."

The trophies and glories of Mary Help of Christians, he, the Sovereign Pontiff, has made the theme of one of his finest poetical compositions.

Through her aid also, whom he loved dearly in his early days and cherished fondly in his advanced age, he prays and hopes to be received into eternal bliss.

..... *matrem te parvulus infans*
Dilexi, flagrans in sene crevit amor.
Excipe me coelo; coeli de civibus unus,
Auspice Te, dicam, praeemia tanta tui



*G*nde gloria mea. With rapturous delight, then, we hail the day of the coronation of Our Lady Help of Christians, and we look upon it as a landmark in the triumphal progress of her devotion, as a pledge of even more copious favours that will cause her name to sound blessed to the farthest limits of the earth,

Let then the wish — aye, the command of the Supreme Pastor be carried into effect, and the ardent wishes of thousands and thousands of devout and grateful hearts be fulfilled. Let a most precious crown be placed on the head of the Infant Saviour Who, as Solomon did towards Bethsabee (1), has had a throne erected for her on his right hand, and Who knows not how to turn His ear from her prayers. Let

(1) III Reg. 11, 19.

her head also be crowned with the most brilliant stars, though they would pale and be dimmed by the sheen of her glory. *Dignum plane stellis coronari caput quod et ipsum longe clarius micans ornet eas potius quam ornetur ab eis. Quidni coronent sidera quam sol vestit?* (1).

"We raise our minds and our eyes together with our hands to thee, O Queen of the world, and before the glory of thy exalted dignity we bend our knees, we bow our heads and we send up our prayers and sighs." (2). It is above human power, we must add again with the great Saint Bernard, to celebrate thy virtues and to proclaim thy glory worthily. *Quis stellas nominet quibus Mariae regium diadema compactum est? Supra hominem est coronae huius rationem exponere iudicare compositionem* (3).

But for us, we will say, making once more our own the thought and the words of this Saint, for us the sweetest and the dearest among her qualities, that which has been made evident to the world by the eloquence of her prodigies, is her goodness, her mercy. *Misericordia miseris sapit dulcius, misericordiam amplectimur charius, recordamur saepius, crebrius invocamus* (4).

The faithful from all parts of the world will turn to her in their afflictions and will find in her solace and strength. Their voices from afar will join with those of the crowds around her altar and form a chorus of unremitting supplication and an unceasing canticle of praise.

"And, indeed, (5) this perpetuity of praise and supplication was typified in ages past by those divine words addressed to Judith in the canticle of Ozias (6): Blessed art thou, O daughter, by the Lord, the Most High God, above all women upon earth; because He hath so magnified thy name this day, that thy praise shall not depart out of the mouth of men." To which all the people of Israel cried out: "so be it! so be it! *Fiat! Fiat!*"

(1) St. Bernard. *Sermo. De B. V. Maria, de verbis Apoc.*

(2) Idem. *Ad Gloriosam Virg. deprecatio et laus.*

(3) Idem. *Sermo. De B. V. Maria, de verbis Apoc.*

(4) Idem. *In Assumpt. Sermo IV.*

(5) *The Rosary of Mary. Encycl. 1897.*

(6) Judith XIII.

CORONATION OF OUR LADY

and the Pontifical Brief

IT will probably not be unwelcome to our readers to receive notice of some of the details concerning the sacred rite for the coronation of Our Lady Help of Christians which is to take place on the 17th of this month.

The custom of adorning the statues of Mary Most Holy with costly diadems is one which bears the sanction of antiquity in the Church, for the whole christian people have ever displayed marked respect and piety towards the august Queen of Heaven. But the practice of accompanying the coronation with exterior solemnity, such as will be shown on this occasion, is without doubt of more recent date. As far as is known with certainty, this highly praiseworthy idea was warmly cherished and promoted in the order of the Capuchin Fathers, and an example of it was given by Fr. Jerome Paolucci in 1587, and by Fr. Vercellese who in 1616 performed the solemn coronation of the Madonna delle Vigne at Genoa.

A fact not very widely known is that of the celebrated legacy made in 1636 by a good patrician of Piacenza, Count Alexander Sforza, to the Vatican Chapter, to aid in crowning those sacred images of Our Lady, which might be most celebrated, both for their antiquity and the frequency of the favours obtained.

Now, if we take a glance at all those statues which have been solemnly crowned, we shall see that they fall



Mary Help of Christians.

easily into three groups. Some have received precious crowns, but only by the authority of the bishop of the diocese: others have been crowned by order of

the Vatican Chapter; others again, and these are fewest in number have been adorned by decree of the Sovereign Pontiff himself, who has either solemnly performed the coronation personally, as Pius VII did that of Savona in 1815, or has delegated a special representative to act in his stead. From this we gather that the sacred rite to be performed at the coronation of Our Lady Help of

of our Lady in Turin, has hereby declared that both the extraordinary celebrity of the Help of Christians, and the wonderful propagation of her devotion *which through the special designs of Providence has now spread among almost all the nations of the world*, fully compensate for its recent origin; for in fact it is not thirty-five years since our venerated founder, Don Bosco, exposed this sacred

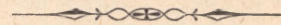


Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.

Christians is of the most solemn kind that the Church has instituted, since H. E. the Cardinal Archbishop of Turin will perform it in the name and with the authority of the Pope: *suo nomine et auctoritate*.

The Vatican Chapter, before sending out the coveted decrees, ascertains by historical facts, not only the frequency of the favours accorded through the veneration of the Sacred Image, but also the antiquity of this veneration. If the statue has not been celebrated for at least a hundred years the Chapter never grants the decree. The Holy Father Leo XIII, by decreeing the coronation

image in the Sanctuary built in honour of Mary Help of Christians, near the Mother House of the Salesian Society at Turin. It will therefore be an uncommon event indeed, which will be witnessed on the third Sunday in May. This act of the august Pontiff could not be more welcome to us, or more calculated to promote the honour and glory of the Queen of Heaven. We are most grateful to Him, and we beseech Our Lady to show herself more than ever the powerful Help of Christians, while we strive to make a worthy preparation for the gladdening solemnity.



We deem it well worth while to reproduce here also in its original elegance the precious and important document in which the Holy Father decrees the coronation of Our Lady Help of Christians, and of which we have printed the English translation in the preceding number.

LEO PP. XIII.

Dilecte Fili Noster, salutem et Apostolicam benedictionem.

Amnium sane templorum quae bo: me: Ioannes Bosco Salesianae Sodalitatis pater legifer ad maiorem Dei gloriam et animarum salutem provehendam, sedulus a fundamentis excitavit, tum amplitudine cum religione praestantissimum illud censendum est quod anno millesimo octingentesimo octavo et sexagesimo Augustae Taurinorum Virgini Deiparae praesentissimae christiani nominis adiutrici solemniter ritu dedicandum curavit. Statim enim ac illud fidelium cultui patuit ibique ea Beatae Virginis Imago affabre inter Apostolos in obsequium hinc illinc circumstantes depicta cum scepro in dextera regio et Iesu puerulo laevo ipsius in brachio dulciter sedente, in ara principe fidelium venerationi proposita fuit mirandum prorsus in modum clarum et venerabile evasit. Continuo in ipsius Virginis honorem pia fidelium instituta Sodalitas brevi ad Archisodalitatis dignitatem erecta et pluribus ab hac S. Sede privilegiis aucta est indulgentiis: dein sacrae huiusce Deiparae Imaginis cultus Italiae et Europae fines transgressus, hodie ad omnes fere christiani orbis gentes est singulari Dei consilio mirabiliter prolatus. Praeclara vero atque innumera in fideles ab Opifera Virgine collata beneficia tum tabulae votivae cum peregrinantium concursus luculenter testantur. Haec animo repetentes cum dilectus filius Michael Rua sacerdos et sacrae Salesianae familiae rector supremus suo et universae ipsius Salesianae familiae nomine evixas Nobis preces humiliter exhibuerit ut hoc anno quo Nos feliciter ab inito Pontificatu quintum et vicesimum agimus percelebrem ipsam Imaginem diademate

decorare velimus, Nos quibus nihil antiquius est neque suavius quam ut christiani populi pietas erga Virginem Deiparam magis magisque in dies augeatur precibus huiusmodi annuendum libenti quidem animo existimavimus. Quae cum ita sint omnes et singulos quibus hae literae Nostrae favent a quibusvis excommunicationis et interdicti aliisque ecclesiasticis sententiis, censuris et poenis, si quas forte incurrerint, huius tantum rei gratia absolventes et absolutos fore censentes, Tibi, dilecte Fili Noster, eas tenore praesentium partes committimus ut eam Opiferae Virginis Imaginem puerulum suum ac Servatorem nostrum Iesum ulnis foventem memorato in templo Civitatis huius tuae Taurinensis publicae fidelium venerationi propositam huius anni die per te eligendo solemniter ritu Nostro nomine et auctoritate corones, ea servata lege nimirum ut sacro utriusque capiti tum Virginis tum Pueri Iesu diadema pro dignitate imponatur. Quo vero solemniter huiusmodi vel in spirituale christiani populi emolumentum cedant omnibus ex utroque sexu christifidelibus qui vere poenitentes et confessi ac S. Communionem refecti ipso Coronationis die Benedictionem a te Nostro nomine et auctoritate impertiendae iuxta ritum formulamque praescriptam intersint, et similiter in posterum perpetuum in modum die solemniter huius coronationis anniversario a primis vesperis usque ad occasum solis diei huiusmodi Ecclesiam et Imaginem piis devote visitent, ibique pro Christianorum Principum concordia, haeresum extirpatione, peccatorum conversione ac S. Matris Ecclesiae exaltatione piis ad Deum preces effundant, Plenariam omnium peccatorum suorum indulgentiam et remissionem etiam animabus fidelium in purgatorio detentis per modum suffragii applicabilem misericorditer in Domino concedimus. Contrariis non obstantibus quibuscumque.

Datum Romae apud S. Petrum sub annulo Piscatoris die XIII Februarii MCMIII, Pontificatus Nostri anno vigesimo quinto.

ALÖIS. Card. MACCHI.

Loco + sigilli.

Dilecto Filio Nostro Augustino
S. R. E. Presbytero Cardinali
Richelmy ex dispensatione
apostolica Archiepiscopo Taurinensi.





MATTO GROSSO (Brazil),

Sacred Heart Colony among the Borörös.

We are glad to reproduce here two letters of Fr. Balzola from the Sacred Heart Colony, Matto Grosso. Our Co-operators and readers, who, knowing the grave danger to which those Missionaries were exposed, shared with us the anxiety we felt for them, will read with pleasure these two letters which are reassuring and tell the hopes entertained for the future of that Mission.

I.

First Labours.

Sacred Heart Colony, Barreiro (Cuyaba)
5th of June, 1902.

VERY REV. AND DEAR DON RUA,

I HAVE no extraordinary news to give you; still after the nearly five months that we have lived apart in these far away forests, it seems to me a duty to give you, dear Father, a short account of this solitary Colony.

And first of all, let thanks be rendered to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Who until now has protected us in a visible manner. We have already felled a goodly tract of the forest, and, by work of arms and shoulders of course, we got together enough poles to make the framework of two huge huts which we then covered with palm leaves; thus the two Salesian houses of Barreiro rose as if by magic..... and without our incurring debts.

The first of these huts affords accommodation to the Nuns; and we took possession of the other which was finished a few days ago. It is true that they are still without doors or windows; and the openings left for light and air, at night, and when needed in the day time, have to be stopped with ox skins. The chapel, or rather the place destined for the chapel, is at the end of our hut. Two curtains separate it from the rest and there is quite a decent altar; on this stands conspicuous the statue of the Sacred Heart so dear to us. Unfortunately, we are not yet able to keep the Blessed Sacrament; nay, Fr. Salvetto and I have to sleep quite close to the altar. The absence of Our Divine Saviour in the little tabernacle is the only cause of affliction.

During these months we have also been able to plant something; and have at last grown some vegetables; in this way, I hope, we will no longer find ourselves so short of food as has happened sometimes in the past. Well, dear Father, just now we are all somewhat broken down in health, and I think it is in consequence of many privations and through the dampness caught in sleeping during four months under poor tents and in a weather almost always rainy. It is now some days that Fr. Salvetto is unable to stand on account of acute rheumatism. However, good-will, peace, charity and cheerfulness reign supreme; it is only our physical strength that is giving way. For this reason, dear Father, do not forget us in the Holy Mass and recommend us to the prayers of our Superiors, confrères and friends.

And the Indians? Well until now they have not put in an appearance, and this is another favour of the Sacred Heart. He who considers the slaughter that took place but a year ago between these Indians and some civilized people, he who knows the thirst for revenge of these savages and how long it rankles in their breast, and reflects on the

condition in which we were during the past months, and, indeed, we are still now—he, I say, will easily understand that we regarded it as good luck not to have as yet had to come in contact with these inhabitants of the forests. But now, that we are somewhat settled, it seems that Our Lord Himself is leading them on our way. We have kept the month of May with great fervour, offering up every day to our Mother Help of Christians, the beautiful flowers of these fields along with our prayers. We are now keeping with equal fervour the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus entreating Him to bless this Mission: and it seems that our prayers are about to be heard.

For these last two or three days we have noticed fires towards the North; a clear sign that the Indians have drawn nearer. Nay, when the wind from that direction blows harder even the smoke reaches us..... what kind of meeting will it be? We are in the hands of Providence. We continue to work and to pray. In the hope of soon being able to send you more and better news, I ask you, dear Father, to bless us all, and believe me your most affectionate *in Corde Jesu*

FR. JOHN BALZOLA.

II.

The meeting with the Indians.

Sacred Heart Colony, Barreiro (Cuyaba)
August 24th, 1902.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

PRAISED be the Sacred Heart of Jesus! Our health and all our other affairs are exceedingly well. After the seven months since, urged by the charity of Our Divine Saviour, we had penetrated in these forests in search of souls to be saved, some savages in the last few days have come near to our huts in a friendly manner; we conversed with them, we entertained them for two days and we could not refrain from tears of joy on seeing their good dispositions.

As I have written to you in the beginning of June, we had noticed some large fires towards the North; although very near to us, still for two months they seemed not to draw any closer. We would have liked to go ourselves to meet them; but I did not

deem it prudent to go with empty hands, for here we are lacking everything. At last, at the beginning of this month of August, we noticed other fires towards the South, and these much nearer to us. The meeting then could not be far off; however, seeing ourselves so surrounded, I cannot deny, dear Father, that I was afraid of some mishap. Hence we redoubled our confidence in God; ready, if such was His good pleasure, to lay down our life for His sake.

On the morning of the 7th of August I had sent one to the field to bring our horses together; and a short time after, I heard him shouting on his return: "Father! Father!" and he came before me all excited saying: "Father, I have seen the Indians."

"Very well," said I, "saddle at once two horses, one for you and one for a good companion that I will give you; and go without delay to cautiously reconnoitre the country in that direction."

And so they did. Towards evening they came back, and said that, at a few hours distance, in the thickest part of the forest, there were many Indians keeping the *bacururu*, that is shouting, singing, dancing, yelling—in short holding savage orgies.

The meeting was now at hand. That night I slept very little. My heart was beating faster and faster, and my fond hope brought to my imagination dreams of rapid and consoling progress for our Colony. In the morning, after commending myself fervently to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to Mary Help of Christians, I had two horses saddled. I had decided to go with two others to find out for myself with what dispositions those Indians had come near us, and to try to speak with them. It was Friday, August 8th, and I felt sure that the Sacred Heart would help us.

In fact, when everything was ready and as we were about to start, some one shouted: "Father! Father! See there are the Indians."

I ran to the place whence the voice had reached us, and I saw five stalwart savages approaching and crying out:

"*Borörös bon! Borörös bon!* (We are good Bororos).

What I experienced at that moment would be impossible to describe to you. I drew near to them smiling and embraced each one,

showing myself pleased to meet them. Some of our party who were somewhat afraid at first, had at that moment gathered near our huts and wept with holy consolation. The five guests stayed with us for two days, namely the Friday and Saturday. The Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary Help of Christians could not have sent us a more welcome present. I was constantly with these poor children of the forests: I spoke to them of the object of our coming, assuring them that under our protection they would suffer no molestation; I besought them to show even better conduct.... I spoke of God and of Our Divine Saviour; in short, I had so much conversation with them and they with me that one would have taken us for old friends. On Saturday morning I celebrated Holy Mass in their presence, and then continued my instructions. It seemed to me that they were much impressed by some large oleographs which I placed before them, representing the universal judgment, the death of the just man and that of the sinner. How they were struck by the radiant figures of the angels!.... One could see their eyes glisten with wonder and delight as they gazed upon them. The first seed is sown, we dearly hope that God will grant the hundred-fold.

Before departing, they promised that *after two moons* they would return bringing other men with them to help them to build huts, and then they would bring their families. One of them was a cacique. We gave some little present to each and then three of them set off southward and two northwards to bear, as they said, the good news to their comrades.

As soon as they were gone, I sent to the telegraph station which is twenty-five miles off, and is the only sign of civilized life in these solitudes, in order to relieve the anxiety of our confrères at St. Gonzalo, and especially of our Provincial Fr. Malan whom we expect shortly with some aid. Woe to us if he is not able to come! The Indians will be here, we know not in what numbers..... and we, with no provisions, what can we then do?

But, dear Rev. Father, before I close, let me unburden myself of some anxious thoughts which weigh heavily upon me. We have already commenced the building of huts, but

what shall we be able to do without more personnel and the means wherewith to support these unhappy beings? How shall we be able to meet their requests or rather, to speak plainly, their demands? Where shall I obtain the clothing to cover so many destitute Indians. *Deus providebit!* God will provide; true, but do you also, dear Father, have compassion on us and come over in thought to these dreary wastes so as to form some idea of our needs. Recommend this mission, just struggling into existence, to the charity of our Co-operators, for the harvest will be one truly copious and consoling. This was the prediction and the expressed hope of the Supreme Pontiff gloriously reigning, when he bestowed his blessing on myself and the three *Coroados* whom I presented to him.

Oh! that we could this year present to the Sacred Heart at least the whole of this tribe around us, converted, fervently christian. Let it cost what it may; this is our firm desire. We will suffer any fatigues, and even give our life if necessary, to obtain it; but none of our Co-operators can deny us their prayers and those who can the offerings of their charity. How happy this much desired result would make us at the tribunal of God.

Accept then, dear Father, our humble greetings, remember us to the other Superiors, and in the name of all your sons in these far off lands receive the salutation of

Yours affectionately *in Corde Jesu*


FR. JOHN. BALZOLA.

PATAGONIA (Neuquen Territory)

Pastoral Visit of His Lordship Mgr. Cagliero, Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia.

Chos-Malal, Dec. 17th, 1901.

VERY REV. AND DEAR DON RUA,

 SEND you an account of the journey from *Roca to Chos-Malal* and of the opening stages of the mission which the Vicar-Apostolic of Patagonia, has started in the Neuquen Territory.

On the road—The Caravan—The stampede
—A misfortune—Pontifical service in a
glen.

Leaving the Rio Negro on our right we started out on the 2nd of December, which is of course our summer time. The company consisted of His Lordship, his secretary and the indefatigable missionary, Fr. Milanesio, and we at once took the road for Chos-Malal, the capital of the Territory. The Governor, in order to render our fatiguing journey of five days somewhat easier, had sent on two soldiers with twenty mules a month before. Our confrère Edward Genghini came to drive for us and he was assisted by a young *arriero* who was to help him to look after the unharnessed and reserve animals.

The caravan thus consisted of a van for the Bishop and the missionaries, a cart for the portable altars, portmanteaus, saddles, cooking utensils, blankets and *ponchos* for the night, followed up by about thirty horses and mules.

Many were the hardships and difficulties we had to bear on account of the scarcity of food and water and the primitive state of the roads, which may be termed quite natural, as they are nothing more than the tracks made by those few who have gone this way before.

After covering some forty-five miles of the journey we arrived, by keeping along the left bank of the river Neuquen, at the ancient and now abandoned *Fortín Vidal*, consisting of a tumbled down hut, the dwelling place of a poor Chilian family. We spent the night under the leafy willow trees which embellish the river side; our bed was the hard ground and our roof the sky.

During the night the mules, I don't know why, stampeded and they could not be found till ten on the following morning.

It is not a matter for surprise that horses and mules, still in a half wild state, should take to flight, especially in order to graze. In these deserts it is impossible to keep them in a stable: they are left loose and unharnessed and are allowed to roam at will through the vast meadows. They live in herds and are led about either by a mare or the oldest horse which has a bell round its neck. In order to bring them together it is

necessary to mount a swift-footed steed and seek for them for hours, and when found, they are driven, not without difficulty, into a kind of inclosure made with poles, or into a space encircled by a hedge.

Then the *arrieros* make use of the lasso, which is sometimes eleven yards long; and being skilful at that kind of work, they catch them one by one either to saddle them or to harness them to the cart or carriage.

To this untoward event was added the misfortune which befell our confrère Edward Genghini. Whilst lassoing a *chúcaro* mule



Natives of Patagonia.

unusually wild, he received such a kick in the chest and in the face that he fell to the ground like a dead man. His condition was so serious that His Lordship thought it well to administer Extreme-Uncion to him, and a few minutes later, we thought he was really dead and we recited the *De profundis*. But fortunately this was not the case; in a short time he gave signs of life, bleeding profusely from the mouth; this recovery his Lordship attributed to the grace of the Sacrament and Our Lady Help of Christians' special assistance, for our long and difficult mission had been placed under her special protection.

This unhappy incident delayed our march, for we had to assist our poor confrère all day under the shade of some plants, and exposed to the furious and suffocating winds. Towards evening Divine Providence sent us the means for transporting the patient to the Salesian House at Roca, where he was accompanied by Father Dominic Milanese and some other kind people of that place. There he received all the attention which his serious state required and after a few weeks, thank God, he was out of danger.

During our forced stay at *Fortin Vidal* several families came from the neighbourhood to get their children baptised and to legalise some marriages. As there was no place suitable and affording protection from the sun's rays we were obliged to take refuge in a glen, where, under the shade of some willow trees, we prepared what was necessary to administer the Sacraments.

The baptisms finished and the marriages settled, his Lordship arrived. He put on a surplice and stole and sat on a *faldistorium* of a somewhat novel kind. It consisted of the trunk of an old willow tree which had fallen to the ground, and the leafy branches of the trees served as a canopy. From this episcopal chair he confirmed the children who had been baptised, and addressed the parents who, sitting on heaps of stones, listened to him with great pleasure. He dwelt on the truths of faith, animated them to the practice of christian virtues and exhorted them to say their Rosary and also their morning and evening prayers. He told them in fine that they must consider their houses to be so many rural churches, from which God in his mercy will listen to them as a good Father, if they behave like good children. He wound up his brief and spirited exhortation by giving them with heartfelt emotion his episcopal blessing.

Along the Neuquen valley—Eighty leagues—A voracious *zorrino*—A moveable chapel—On the Vento Cordilleras—Welcome at Chos-Malal.

The journey along the Neuquen Valley was both romantic and picturesque. Tableaux and landscapes truly charming were passing without interruption before our gaze: they

seemed like old castles, columns, statues, palaces and fortresses, marvellous works of art, whereas they were merely freaks of nature formed by rain, eruptions, and time. Towards evening, on the 4th of December, we reached *Añelo*, a small village and the first station of the small fortresses of the *Chos-Malal* Garrison. Lieutenant Zabala treated us with great courtesy, and Mr. Garáycochéa, a justice of the peace, deemed it an honour to offer us hospitality. One of his rooms was converted into a Chapel for the celebration of Holy Mass and the administration of the Sacraments.

The news of the arrival of the Bishop and of the Missionaries having spread abroad, many families travelled all night to get their babies baptised and confirmed, as also their boys and girls. What pain one feels at the sight of the ignorance which reigns in this distant and populous region.... Suffice it to say that at *Añelo* we found one single family joined by the Sacramental bonds of Matrimony, whilst others!... Mgr. Cagliero felt deeply this state of things, and he set himself with all his energy to remedy an evil so fatal to religion and to the salvation of souls...

On the following day Fr. Milanese had already returned, and in his company we set out at an early hour for *Ojos de Agua* and *Carranza*. These are small military outposts situated in the midst of an entirely sterile plain along a sandy track fully twenty-five leagues in length. Whilst approaching the chain of mountains leading up to the Andes, we found steep descents and ascents which were a cause of no little difficulty to us, especially on account of the mules which proved unmanageable and often quite wild. For brevity's sake I pass over in silence the many untoward incidents, the shocks the jolting and the frights with which our journey was beset. We were also without water and food, and consequently we had to suffer hunger and thirst during our painful journey of eighty leagues, some 250 miles, from *Roca* to *Chos-Malal*.

(To be continued.)





For the Congress of Salesian Co-operators.

AS we write, the last preparations are being made for the Congress of Salesian Co-operators to be held in Turin on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of May. The unsparing labours of the members of the various Commissions fully justify the confidence which has been placed in them and give well-grounded hopes of successful issue.

Their proposals and invitations were heartily welcomed and met with favour and support. Numerous persons, illustrious for their position and qualifications, promised their co-operation, and several, from various parts of Europe and America, will assist personally and contribute from their knowledge and experience.

In many places, moreover, local Committees of ladies and gentlemen have been formed and they will hold special meetings and celebrations during those days. Conferences, by way of preparation have also been given in several places.

God be praised for this movement for the furtherance of catholic action which will serve to organize it more, and render it even more practical and efficacious. The scope of the Association of Salesian Co-operators is one which must enlist the sympathy and interest of all good christians who hearken to the Holy Father, to the voice of God Who "gave to every one of them commandment concerning his neighbour"—*mandavit unicuique de proximo suo* (1)—since this Association, whilst praising and encouraging all good works,

aims at creating a concerted action in order to promote the practice of our holy Religion, to foster good morals, chiefly in taking care of poor youth, and this by lending personal or material or moral assistance in union with one's own parish priest and with the diocesan Authority.

"Let each one bear in mind," wrote Leo XIII (2), "that he both can and should, so far as may be, preach the Catholic faith by the authority of his example and by open and constant profession of the obligations it imposes." And again: "When the right education of youth is concerned, no amount of trouble or labour can be undertaken, how great soever, but that even greater still may not be called for."

As the Holy Father has stated in the Brief addressed to H. E. Cardinal Svampa on the occasion of the Bologna Congress, you, dear Co-operators, by sustaining and promoting the works of the Association, render yourselves in a signal manner well-deserving of Religion and of civil society. *Praeclare de religione ac civitate eos promereri manifestum est, qui Salesianae Familiae coepta ac labores favore utilique opera prosequantur.*



From the diary of Don Bosco's last illness.

WE have written in another page some reflections on Our Lady's power and goodness, suggested by the great event of this month, the Coronation of Our Lady Help of Christians—the Madonna of Don Bosco.

(1) Eccli. XVII. 12.

(2) *Enoyel. Sapientiae Christianae*, 1890

O! what a large harvest of facts do not these two names suggest which would confirm every line written above! One only we reproduce here from the diary of Don Bosco's last illness, where, under the date January 7th, 1888, we read:

"This evening, with the doctors' permission, we began to give Don Bosco some food. Before taking it he uncovered his head and prayed evidently affected. The by-standers feared that the food might prove hurtful to him but he bore it very well. Afterwards with unusual liveliness he began to ask a thousand questions. He enquired after news from Rome, about the Pope and his Sacerdotal Jubilee; then he asked for information about the Oratory and wished to speak to some of the brothers. He never felt so well.

Towards six o'clock he sent to Fr. Lemoyne the following message:—"How do you account for this, that a person after lying sick in bed for twenty-one days, almost without food, with his mind extremely enfeebled, all on a sudden recovers, understands everything, feels strong and almost able to get up, to write and to work? Yes, at this moment I feel as well as if I had never been sick at all. If any one were to ask the reason why, you might answer thus: *Quod Deus imperio, tu prece Virgo potes* (1)..... This is certainly not my hour yet; it may be ere long, but not now."

This unexpected respite in Don Bosco's illness was beyond doubt the result of the many prayers offered up through Our Lady in many parts of the world. He was thus enabled to set in order many affairs, to give directions for the management of the Oratory and to decide about the personnel of our Houses.



Don Rua's Representative at Battersea.

It has been our privilege, writes a correspondent from Battersea, London, to be the first to welcome the Very Rev. Fr. Paul Albera, Don Rua's Representative, after his journeys in America of nearly three years duration. He landed at Southampton on

Thursday morning, March 26th, along with his faithful and devoted secretary Fr. C. Gussmano and another Salesian priest from San Francisco. They were greeted on the quay by the Rev. Fr. E. Rabagliati in the name of the Very Rev. Father Provincial, C. B. Macey, and the Community, and at about 10 o'clock they reached the Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane. That same evening, in the course of a musical entertainment given in honour of our distinguished visitor, the confrères and pupils in addresses in various forms and languages made manifest how we were all sensible of the privilege and valued the favour of his visit.

The *Salesian Bulletin*, for the past two years, has given from time to time, in the shape of extracts from the correspondence, a sketchy account of the most noteworthy incidents of Fr. Albera's journeys. These extracts extend only over a portion of the travels he made from the equatorial regions to the storm-beaten and frosty shores of Tierra del Fuego towards the South Pole. Still, even from that portion it may be inferred what a long succession of toilsome, fatiguing days his visit entailed and also the good seed which he scattered with unstinted hand. In the institutions which were favoured with a visit, joy and blessing entered with him.

Many a labourer in the Missions, wearied and worn out by years of toil and disappointments, heard from him words which infused fresh courage and renewed the determination to hold on to the end.

But a few months ago he was giving missions to the poor people stricken with leprosy at the lazarettos of Contratacion and Agua de Dios.

We have no doubt that it is owing to the many earnest prayers offered up for him that he was able to tide over the difficulties that beset his mission and even imperilled his life, threatening to cut short his apostolate of grace and peace. Much will remain here below unrecorded or known only to few, but everything has been diligently noted down in golden characters by the good Angels of those souls and of those regions.

Fr. Albera and his companions travelled from San Francisco to New York, breaking the journey at Chicago. This stay has left a cherished record on their memory. They

(1) That which Almighty God can do by command in force of his omnipotence, thou, O Virgin, canst do by means of thy prayer and intercession.

were the guests of the Servite Fathers by whom they were entertained with such exquisite charity that we feel it our duty to offer here sincerest thanks to the Very Rev. Father Superior, and, through him, to the members of his community.

It was not since the year of the consecration of the Church of the Sacred Heart, 1893, that Fr. Albera had visited the House of Battersea, and it was a great satisfaction to him to see with his own eyes the development it has since attained. On Passion Sunday he officiated at the evening service when a fortnight's mission, which had been given by two Salesian Fathers, was brought to a close. He paid a short visit to the novitiate at Burwash, and also to Farnborough, to Chertsey, to St. Georges Home, Southwark, and on Thursday, April 2nd, he left for the Continent.



Cardinal Ferrari and the Saint Ambrose Institute.

TO the numberless tokens of good will and lively interest which H. E. Cardinal Ferrari, Archbishop of Milan, has given to the works of Don Bosco, and in a special manner to the Salesian Institute of arts and trades of that city, new ones are added daily—a fact which we mention not without expressing at the same time the deep gratitude of the whole Salesian Family towards His Eminence.

Just before leaving for Rome, on the occasion of the Pontifical Jubilee, he graciously condescended to preside again at the Conference of the Salesian Co-operators held in the chapel of the Institute. After the discourse of Fr. Trione, Mgr. Morganti—who had been for years the life and soul of the Milanese Co-operators and who had now come for the occasion from his diocese—addressed the audience stating the work accomplished, and that which is now in progress and pleaded forcibly for the completion of the Church of St. Augustine which is now in course of erection.

The Cardinal at the end rose to speak and said that he heartily applauded and endorsed all that had been said; he insisted on the necessity of sustaining and even enlarging that institution which has already proved a

harbour of salvation to many a poor youth who had been neglected and left exposed to the baneful influence of bad example. "Wherever I go," he added, "I always say: give; not indeed for me, but for the good of Religion, for the good of the Church, for the good of our diocese. This evening I start for Rome, and when kneeling at the feet of the Holy Father, I will ask for a special blessing for the Salesians, for the boys of this Institute and for their benefactors."

On the 21st of March, on his return from Rome, His Eminence was once more at the Institute surrounded by a good number of benefactors. He had come to impart the special blessing he had obtained from the Sovereign Pontiff. He first gave a fatherly exhortation to the boys, then addressed the Co-operators praising them for their zeal and exhorted them to persevere in their labours undaunted by the difficulties they might encounter or the sacrifices that might have to be made, persuaded that, besides an assured reward in heaven, they may also confidently hope to see here the fruit of their labours.

He then imparted the papal blessing and after it the Benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament. After the ceremony he kindly consented to meet the members of the Committee of Co-operators with whom he conversed for about one hour, chiefly on his recent visit to Rome and the works they have now in hand. So much benevolence from the Eminent Prelate will prove an excitement to devote themselves with redoubled energies to a work so important and so dear to their beloved Archbishop.



Steps forward in England.

THE *West Battersea Parish Magazine* for April states that on Quinquagesima Sunday a new Mission was opened at East Hill, Wandsworth, London. The chapel is known under the name of "Oratory of St. Mary Magdalen" and St. Gertrude, and is capable of seating about one hundred and twenty people. For the time being the work of serving this new Mission has been entrusted to the Salesian Fathers of Battersea by His Lordship the Bishop of Southwark.

Not long ago some of the Daughters of

Mary Help of Christians established themselves at Chertsey. An iron church has been since erected for the use of the people, and the mission which for some time past has been served from London, will now be in charge of a resident priest.

On the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lady, a Salesian priest, the Rev. V. Campana, and three brothers went to take up their abode at the St George's Home, Southwark, being called to help in its management by the Very Rev. Canon St. John. The name of the Very Rev. Canon is well known throughout England and beyond the Atlantic for his strenuous efforts in the rescue of youth. The Boys' Home is one of the works which he, with the faith that moves mountains, has started a number of years ago, and has carried on since, at the cost of countless sacrifices, aided by some few devoted fellow-workers. We hope to give in another issue a more detailed account of this institution, its nature and good work.



An outing to Dartford.

IN connection with the St. George's Home mentioned above and its inmates, we willingly make room for an item of recent date communicated to us, chiefly as it affords a coveted opportunity of fulfilling a pleasing duty.

On Easter Monday morning, Bank-holiday, about one hundred of the lads of the Home left for Waterloo Station full of the anticipation of a most pleasant and enjoyable day. An outing to Dartford—to the Industrial School conducted by the Presentation Brothers had been planned—a relieving change from the smoky noisy streets of Southwark—a relief the more welcome to those who are already tied down to long hours of business.

On alighting at Dartford they found the Very Rev. Canon St. John who had preceded them, always thoughtful and always solicitous for them.

Needless to say, the day passed quickly and pleasantly. The good brothers had made every arrangement for their guests and treated them with warm hospitality. Various

sports of absorbing interest took place and were relieved by fine selections given by the band of the School.

There is no need, at this hour of the day, to speak of the able and successful work of the Presentation Brothers, or of that Industrial School so splendidly managed by them. Their reputation has been long ago established. But we feel the need of making a public acknowledgment of their kindness. From the first day that the Sons of Don Bosco had gone to St. George's Home, the Rev. Brother Superior of Dartford gave them a proof of exquisite fraternal charity that will be long remembered.

Our confrères would fain renew in these columns the expression of their best thanks to the Rev. Brother Louis, Superior, and to the other members of his community.



Sacred Heart day schools, Battersea.

THESE schools continue to maintain the high standard of efficiency they have attained as is evident from the reports received both from the Diocesan and Government Inspectors which we give here below. The girls' and infants' departments are in charge of the Sisters of Notre Dame and the boys' department is entrusted to our confrères.

Report of the Diocesan Inspector.

Boys.—*The boys are well instructed in their religion and all the classes passed a very good examination.*

Girls.—*The teachers evidently have their hearts thoroughly in their work, and the girls in all the classes passed very well.*

Infants.—*The infants are well taught and great praise is due to their teachers. The examination was excellent in its results.*

Report of the Government Inspectors.

Boys' School.—*The teaching is vigorous, diligent and effective, the work is well directed and revised by the Head Master and the school is advancing in general efficiency.*

Girls' School.—*An admirable tone continues to be maintained and the teaching is carried on assiduously and carefully by the teachers.*

Infants' School.—*The instruction and training are given with good method and admirable success. This is especially creditable when the crowded rooms and youthful staff are taken into consideration.*



The spiritual treasures of our Co-operators.

THE Salesian Co-operators know from their diploma or certificate of enrolment, of the great wealth of spiritual favours and privileges with which their association has been enriched by Pius IX of saintly memory, and which have been even increased and extended by his successor Leo XIII, who also both claimed a place of honour among its members. A few are given here:

Every Co-operator may gain a plenary indulgence once a month, which is also applicable to the souls in Purgatory, by reciting a third part of the Rosary of Mary most Holy, saying also five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father*, before the blessed Sacrament, or if that is not possible before a crucifix.

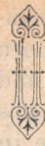
Another plenary indulgence can also be gained every time they go to Holy Communion.

They can also gain many plenary indulgences during the day, by reciting *six* times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory be to the Father*, for the Pope's intentions. These indulgences, also applicable to the souls in Purgatory, can be gained whenever these prayers are recited, in whatever place, without need of Confession or Communion as long as one is in the grace of God.

Besides these, another may be gained every Sunday for the dead, and on special days, mentioned in their diploma if they have confessed during the week, if they have a habit of so doing, and communicated, and then visiting a Salesian Church, or if there is not one, their own parish church, or if they belong to a community, their own private chapel and praying for the above intentions.

In order that God may vouchsafe to show Himself more propitious to our prayers, and may be moved by the augmented number of our advocates to bring speedy and abundant help to the Church, We consider it of the utmost importance, that, along with the Virgin Mother of God, the Christian people should become accustomed to implore her chaste spouse, St. Joseph, with unbounded affection and confidence. Many reasons conspire to convince Us that such devotion to St. Joseph will be most acceptable and pleasing to the Blessed Virgin herself.

LEO XIII.



Book Notices



A Royal Son and Mother is the title of a neat and valuable little volume recently received from the Ave Maria Press.

It is the biography of Prince Demetrius Galitzin, who was ordained priest in March 1795, and of his pious Mother, both converts to our holy Religion. We commend this little book to our readers, being assured they will derive much advantage from its perusal. The work was originally written for the Ave Maria by Baroness Pauline von Hügel and may now be had in book form from the Ave Maria Office, Notre Dame, Indiana, U. S. A., the retail price being 75 cents, or 3/2.



From the *Catholic Truth Society of Ireland* (27, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin) we have received the following interesting penny pamphlets which we cordially recommend to our readers:—

- Consumption: Its Causes, Prevention and Cure.* By Rev. Martin Healy, C. C.
A Batch of Sacrifices: A Tale for Boys. By Rev. F. C. Kolbe, D. D.
"J. K. L." A Great Irish Bishop. By Rev. P. Coakley, O. S. A.
The Melancholy Heart; or: The Child to whom nobody was kind. By Frederick William Faber, D. D.
The Strike; or: The Drunkard's Fate. From the Diary of a Missionary Priest.
The Flower Girl and Other Tales. By Eveleen Brownrigg.
Where the Turf Fires Burn and other Sketches. By Delia Gleeson.

The Salesian Bulletin

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT THE SALESIAN ORATORY, TURIN, ITALY.

This Magazine is sent to Catholics who manifest a desire to become Members of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and concur in helping our Society in any way whatsoever.

When applying for a copy of this periodical, please state whether you already receive our "Bulletin" (Italian, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, or Polish) and if you desire to have it suspended henceforth, or not.



GRACES AND FAVOURS OBTAINED

through the intercession of

MARY HELP of CHRISTIANS

Cuenca (ECUADOR). So numerous are the graces obtained through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians in these far off American regions that to give an account of all of them would fill volumes.

Without speaking of Chili, where the large picture painted by the request of Madame Gomez Silva is nothing but a long history of favours and graces, without mentioning Peru or Argentine and the other Republics, I can state without hesitation that the favours attested only by the inhabitants of this city of Cuenca now that we have come to establish ourselves here for the third time, would fill a whole volume. I ought, however, to relate some of them to you, obtained in these past weeks, and properly registered by us.

A poor mother afflicted by the evil life of her son, had also to suffer his departure from the country with a party of vicious companions. All her entreaties were in vain. She then commenced a novena to Mary Help of Christians and during it her son returned repentant to his home.

A certain young person had already gone far along the path of vice. She was recommended to Our Lady's intercession, and that very day, to the wonder of all, she was converted and turned sincerely to God.

A young man fell from his horse and suffered concussion of the brain. The doctors gave him up for lost, for the poor fellow had not spoken for nine hours. A priest was finally called; he placed on him a medal of Mary Help of Christians, and the patient immediately opened his eyes, regained consciousness and began to speak. He made a

sincere confession and on the morrow was out of danger.

A pupil of ours, a poor jivaro, fell sick with confluent small-pox. We found that he was not wearing a medal so we hung one round his neck and the malady ceased in a most wonderful way and the poor boy was saved.

Speaking of medals another instance occurs to my mind. Two years ago scarlet fever was raging here in Cuenca and with very fatal results. All of our pupils except four were wearing the medal of Mary Help of Christians. Well none of them caught the fever but these four. As soon as we knew that they had not a medal upon them we immediately gave them one and there was at once a turn for the better in all of them.

Yesterday, a lady came to me in great anxiety concerning some important business going on at Guayaquil. To-day she said to me, "Father, I have received a telegram announcing the best of news." I ought to add that the case had before seemed utterly hopeless, but the good lady had earnestly besought the powerful intercession of the Help of Christians.

Another lady who had been for some years a martyr to neuralgic pains, was advised to have recourse to Mary Help of Christians. She obtained an image of Our Lady and wonderful to relate at the first touch she was completely cured.

I could send accounts of many other favours all received during these last days; and I feel that I should not have done my duty had I withheld these few that I send. What loving care our powerful Protectress extends to her devout clients wherever they may be.

January, 1903.

Fr. F. T.
(Salesian Missionary)

Pittsburg (U. S. A.). Last year I wrote asking you to join with us in a Novena to Our Lady Help of Christians, at the same time promising publication in the *Salesian Bulletin* and an offering if my request were granted. Thanks to our dear Lady, she has as usual given more than was asked, and gladly I now fulfil my promise.

February 2nd, 1903.

Sr. M. V.



Mission City (BRITISH COLUMBIA). Enclosed please find two dollars as a little help for your missions, and also in thanksgiving for a favour obtained through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. She restored to health one of our pupils who was blood poisoned.

February 3rd, 1903.

Sr. M. STANISLAS KOSTKA.



Chicago (U. S. A.). Enclosed you will find an offering to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, promised in the event of obtaining a special favour through the intercession of the powerful Mother of God.

The request has now been granted and I hasten to fulfil my promise and beg you to publish the grace in the *Salesian Bulletin*.

My daughter was affected with nervousness and medical aid seemed of no avail, so that I was obliged to send her to an Asylum. I was almost heart-broken at the dire separation. One day a copy of the *Salesian Bulletin* fell into my hands and I was immediately filled with hope. Knowing that Our Blessed Lady was never implored in vain I asked you to make a novena for her. Thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians and your good prayers my daughter is now at home in the family circle, and every sign of the nervous trouble has completely disappeared.

M. C.

February 16th, 1903.



Newtownards (IRELAND). Some time ago, I had recourse to Our Lady Help of Christians to obtain for me a much-needed temporal favour. She obtained my request on the same day I prayed to her. I now wish to place under her protection my baby, who

is ill, and shows signs of delicacy. I trust, if it be God's holy will, she will obtain for him from her Divine Son the great gift of good health.

I enclose a small offering for the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.

E. M.

March 10th, 1903.



Castleblayney (IRELAND). I wish, through the medium of the *Salesian Bulletin*, to publicly offer my most grateful thanks to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and our dear Lady Help of Christians for the recovery of two children from illness.

J. J. K.

March 13th, 1903.



Faringdon (ENGLAND). Will you kindly have a holy Mass said at the Altar of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving for a particular favour granted to my brother through a novena to Our Lady. I enclose a small offering.

A. M.

March 16th, 1903.



Belfast (IRELAND). Enclosed please find contribution as a thanksgiving offering to Mary Help of Christians for a great number of favours obtained through her intercession.

F. M.

March 25th, 1903.

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To obtain favours needed, Don Bosco recommended the frequent use of the Sacraments and the practice of a Novena consisting of the *Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father three times daily to Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament, with the invocation Mary Help of Christians, Pray for us, and the Hail Holy Queen, making at the same time a formal promise of sending an alms according to one's means to the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.*







## A Son of Don Bosco.

— 1850 — 1895 —

### LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA,

Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli.

#### CHAPTER XVI (Continued).

Meanwhile the steamer *Iberia* weighed anchor from the port of Bordeaux and, through the mouth of the Garonne, launched out into the Atlantic. Our travellers standing on deck bade farewell to Europe, and in thought bade adieu once more to Don Bosco, to their confrères their relatives and friends.

Almighty God had so decreed that Fr. Lasagna during their voyage should meet with many afflictions and few consolations. In fact the other Salesian Missionaries, in crossing the Ocean, had been able to celebrate holy Mass often, whereas to him, for various reasons, it was generally denied. The others found themselves in company of emigrants mostly their own countrymen, hence were often able to prepare boys and girls for first Communion, to say Mass on deck or in a first class saloon for the convenience of all, to preach, to administer Sacraments, whereas Fr. Lasagna, as he was with passengers of various nationalities, much to his regret was able to do nothing of all that, as the language presented an insurmountable obstacle. Besides the presence of Catholic priests was to some non catholic passengers undesirable and unwelcome and all this contributed to render the voyage monotonous and irksome. He had to content himself with keeping alive in his confrères the spirit of piety by following out as closely as possible the religious practices laid down by the Rule.

And his bodily sufferings were not less, for they were travelling at a time when the storms are more frequent and violent. He used to say that, of all his voyages, the first had been the most painful; and indeed his life was greatly imperilled during one of the storms and it was saved as if by miracle.

#### CHAPTER XVII.

Arrival at Montevideo—At the Episcopal palace—First acquaintances—In the field—Prodigious activity—Difficulties and dangers—Zeal for the House of God—Strange yet true—Improvised but hearty reception.

ON the twenty-sixth of December the steamer *Iberia* dropped anchor in the port of the beautiful town of Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. The first to meet the Missionaries was a young man in the service of Mgr. Vera who had sent him to welcome them and to accompany them to the Bishop's palace.

His Lordship received them with fatherly kindness; he invited them to dine with him and was most interested in asking them about Don Bosco, the Oratory at Turin and the various incidents of their journey. Such was the kindness and affability shown towards them by the good Prelate, that they felt from that first meeting entire confidence in him and henceforth looked upon him as their father.

Fr. Lasagna was anxious to go without delay to the place to which he had been destined by obedience, and kept asking where Villa Colon was and where the College which was to take the name of Pius IX was situated. His Lordship, however, ordered the carriage to be got ready and wished him first to see

the city of Montevideo, and visit some of the religious communities who were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Salesians. Thus on his setting foot in America, he made the acquaintance of the Institute of the "Daughters of Our Lord in the Garden" founded by Mgr. Gianelli in Chiavari, with the Dominicanesses and the Salesian Sisters of Milan. To all of these communities Fr. Lasagna rendered later on valuable services, either by undertaking their spiritual direction or by going himself or sending other priests to exercise the sacred ministry in their public churches.

A short tour round the city was enough to convince him that this republic was an immense field where the zeal of many priests would have full scope. Accordingly in writing to Don Bosco to inform him of their arrival at Montevideo, he already began to entreat him to send others to help—helpers vigorous and earnest in working for a people who, though irreligious and ignorant, were nevertheless by no means of hostile dispositions towards religion or the priesthood.

As Fr. Lasagna was most anxious to go to Villa Colon that same day, Mgr. Vera had him accompanied there in a carriage by Messrs. Jeregui, members of the Commission and great admirers of Don Bosco. On the threshold of the College he was met by Fr. Tomatis a school-fellow and great friend of his, and also by the other Salesians whom Fr. Cagliero had appointed for that house. After the most hearty greeting and congratulations, they all went to the Church to give thanks to God, some for their safe journey, others for the happiness of welcoming the Superior of the College of Pius IX, one as active as he was pious and learned. Villa Colon was to be for Fr. Lasagna like a tent on the battlefield, a witness to his labours, to his countless sacrifices, the place from whence, like a beacon, he was to shed around the light of virtue and knowledge.

On account of his poor health and still fatigued from the long journey, he stood badly in need of some rest, and it had also been ordered him by the doctors who had attended him; but his eagerness and earnestness of character caused him to give his first thoughts to his duties instead of his ease and convenience and even his health. The

College was to be fitted up and got ready so that pupils might be received by the end of January at the latest, as Fr. Cagliero had promised in Don Bosco's own name. This time was drawing near, but the preparations were by no means advanced enough. On this occasion Fr. Lasagna displayed wonderful activity and an energy to battle against every discouragement, he showed himself capable to surmount all obstacles: he succeeded in opening the elementary classes at the beginning of February and the higher ones a few months later.

But the religious, moral and intellectual organization of the College was to cost him much greater sacrifices. The name of Don Bosco and the reputation of clever educators acquired by those Salesians at their outset in America, soon drew to the College a large number of pupils. Now, in an institute where everything was yet to be done and started, where no traditions as yet existed; a place where day by day, nay hour by hour, regulations had to be explained in word, then put into practice, the task that thus fell to the lot of teachers, assistants and especially of the Director must have been overwhelming. To all this there is yet to be added the difficulties arising from a language new to them, from having to pursue other syllabuses of studies and from the customs and usages of the country to which they had to adapt themselves.

Furthermore, it was not an easy task for him to imbue with solid piety—an object he had very much at heart—several of those boys who belonged to parents fond of them even to excess and destitute of almost any religious sentiment. Their indiscreet and almost unreasonable demands were like a rock against which his zeal and good-will might be wrecked notwithstanding all his prudence. Yet in spite of all, as if rising above himself, he was able chiefly by means of religious practices to put a remedy to many evils and pursue his course unswervingly.

*(To be continued).*

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PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO.—Salesian Press.—Turin, 1903

(b) The devotions performed by the little boys of the Oratory in their own private Chapel, including also the Mass at which they daily assist;

(c) All the Services, Novenas, Feasts and Solemnities whatsoever, that are celebrated in the aforesaid church;

(d) The prayers and good works performed by the Salesians themselves and by their protégés in their Homes, Colleges, Hospices, Oratories, Missions, etc., in Italy, in France, in Spain, in England, in Austria, in Switzerland, in America, in Asia, in Africa,—in a word, wherever they are established or may be called by Divine Providence.

4. Participation in the holy Masses will commence on the day after the alms have come to hand; all the other spiritual advantages are enjoyed from the moment of inscription.

5. The contributor, we repeat, of one shilling given once for all, is entitled to put his intentions in all the six Masses and all the other pious works, for his own advantage or for that of his friends, living or dead, and to change the intention *in every circumstance* according to his particular wants or desires.

6. Inscriptions may also be made in favour of departed friends, of children, and of any class whatsoever of persons, even without their knowledge or consent.

7. Persons desiring to participate more abundantly in these spiritual advantages may do so by repeating the alms of one shilling, thereby multiplying the inscriptions as often as they please.

8. The offerings thus collected are destined for the maintenance of the boys of the Hospice or Oratory founded by Don Bosco on the grounds annexed to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Salesians are in duty bound to fulfil all the obligations of the Charitable Association as above described.

9. The names of subscribers will be entered on the Registers of the Association and preserved in the Temple of the Sacred Heart, in Rome, for perpetual remembrance.

10. There are two centres for enrolment, one in Rome the other in Turin. Address: The Rev. Rector, Ospizio del Sacro Cuore di Gesù, Via Porta S. Lorenzo, 42, Rome; or, The V. Rev. Michael Rua, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

#### APPROBATION.

Pium Opus adprobamus, eidemque largissimam fidelium opem ominamur,  
Ex Aed. Vic., die 27 Junii 1888.

L. M. PAROCCHI, Card. Vic.

*We approve the "Charitable Association" and we wish it the greatest concourse of the faithful.*

Given at Rome, etc.

#### THE PAPAL BLESSING.

The Holy Father has deigned to accord the blessing asked for the Charitable Association of the Sacred Heart.

1. Given from the Vatican, June 30th, 1888.

ANGELO RINALDI, Chaplain, Sec.

# THE "SALESIAN BULLETIN"

is the Organ of the Salesian Congregation and of the Association of the Salesian Co-operators.

It is edited monthly in seven languages, namely: English, Italian, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese and Polish.

It contains the communications of the Superior General, the successor of Don Bosco, to the Co-operators, friends and benefactors of the Salesian Institutions.

It gives a report of the progress of the works of the Society, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, of the Salesian Co-operators; also interesting accounts from the Missions and various matters of edification and encouragement connected with the objects of the Association.

It is sent to all the Co-operators, friends and benefactors who desire to receive it.

All communications concerning change of address, or when the sending of it is to be discontinued through any cause whatsoever, should be addressed *To the Editor* of the Salesian Bulletin, *Salesian Oratory, Valdocco Turin, Italy*; or, when received from other Houses, to the Superior of the House from which it is sent.

There is no fixed charge or subscription for the Magazine, but the amount which anyone may wish to devote towards defraying the expenses in connection with its production and distribution should be addressed as above.

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To our friends and Co-operators, who would like to make Don Bosco's works more widely known, we strongly recommend the circulation of a pamphlet entitled: *Don Bosco's Apostolate and other Sketches*. As many copies as are requested will be forwarded in return for any offering. Apply to the *Editor* of the Salesian Bulletin, *Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*; or to the *Very Rev. C. B. Macey, Salesian Schools, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London, S. W.*

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