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**THE SALESIAN BULLETIN**



STVDIVM MESSIS OPERARII QVIDEM AVTEM MVLTA PAVCI LABOR

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Italy

# The Association of Salesian Co-operators

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We wish to call the attention of the Readers of the *Salesian Bulletin* to the Association of Salesian Co-operators, and ask them to make the same widely known amongst their friends and acquaintances.

It is a most practical, efficacious and advantageous way of carrying out the wishes and exhortations of His Holiness Leo XIII, and notably those contained in the Encyclical *Graves de communi* on Christian Democracy.

This Association was, from its very beginning, warmly recommended by Pius IX who claimed to be inscribed as first Co-operator, and enriched it with the spiritual favours of the most privileged tertiaries.

His Holiness Leo XIII, on his elevation to the pontifical throne, claimed, like his Predecessor, to head the list of the Salesian Co-operators. He, moreover, said to Don Bosco: *Each time you address the Co-operators, tell them that I bless them from my heart; the scope of the Society is to prevent the loss and ruin of youth, and they must form but one heart and one soul in order to help to attain this end.*

Every good christian above sixteen years of age can become a Co-operator, enjoy the numerous spiritual favours, and share in the merit of the good works accomplished by the Salesian Congregation, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the Association of Co-operators throughout the whole world.

The membership does not entail any obligation of conscience whatsoever; hence not only all members of a family, but inmates of any institution or college, members of religious communities, confraternities, etc., can join it by means of their Superiors.

Each and all may become active Co-operators by promoting with their good example and according to their means and capacity the practice of Religion and works of charity in their respective places.

Each and all may co-operate in the numerous and manifold works of charity and public beneficence carried on in other parts by the following means:

PRAYER — by praying for the object and intentions of the Association.

ALMSGIVING — by contributing according to their means to the support and development of the many institutions of the Society for the education of destitute youth; also to the support and extension of the Missions among heathens, and on behalf of the lepers.

PROPAGANDA — by making the Association of Salesian Co-operators more widely known and increasing the number of its members; by bringing the works of the Society to the knowledge of well-disposed and charitable persons, by enlisting the sympathy of them and of all who have at heart the rescuing and christian education of youth and the good of civil society.

Any persons desiring to become Members of this Association are respectfully solicited to send their name and address to the *Very Rev. Michael Rua, Superior General, Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy*, who will be most happy to enrol them and forward their Diploma of Admission, as well as the *Salesian Bulletin* every month.



THE  
**S**ALESIAN  
 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.)

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**D**ON RUA'S ANNUAL LETTER

to the Salesian Co-operators.

Dear Friends and Co-operators,

**C**ERTAIN remarks made by H. E. Cardinal Svampa at the Salesian Congress held in Turin last May, have left a lasting impression on my mind. The eloquent Prelate described the Hebrews fighting bravely against their enemy down in the valley, whilst above, on the mountain, Moses interceded for them with uplifted arms, and obtained for them from the God of armies a most signal victory. In the Jewish people His Eminence was

pleased to find an illustration of the sons of Don Bosco, who, scattered over the face of the earth, are striving to combat vice and error, and in the measure of their strength, to extend more and more the kingdom of Jesus Christ. In Moses, however—and in this case far more truly—he saw represented those zealous christian men and women, our good Co-operators, who, by their fervent prayers and by their many good deeds, often performed at the cost of much sacrifice, implore God's blessing and the protection of Mary Help of Christians on the Salesian army, and obtain

for it the victory over the enemy of souls.

If such is the case, who can fail to see the close relation that exists between the Salesians and their benevolent Co-operators? They are both prompted by one and the same motive,—namely the desire to promote the glory of God; their efforts are directed to one and the same end—to rescue from perdition the greatest possible number of souls. It can, moreover, be argued from this what large share the Co-operators have in the works of christian charity which, through God's help, are carried on by the Salesians: hence also, arises the opportuneness of giving them, from time to time, an account of the work in hand, as is customary at the close of each year.

To review in our mind the vicissitudes of the past year; to go over what good has been accomplished; to recall the struggles undergone, the difficulties overcome—all this, far from being for us a source of vain complacency or ostentation, is rather a tribute of heart-felt gratitude we offer to God for the graces He has bestowed upon us; it affords to us all encouragement and incitement to persevere generously in that apostolate which forms the principal scope of our Association—the salvation of souls.

### **A glance over the past year.**

Divine Providence has ordained that the year 1903 should be a most eventful one for the Salesians and their benevolent Co-operators. During its course many facts, both remarkable and consoling, have taken place; but, as is the

case in this vale of tears, they were not dissociated from sorrowful ones. They are already known to you, dear Co-operators; nevertheless, it will not be out of place to refer to them briefly in this letter.

At the commencement of last year an event occurred which could not but cause to us all great joy and satisfaction. Leo XIII., of saintly memory, in January last, received in private and extraordinary audience the Superior General of the Salesian Society together with the representatives of some of our principal Institutes, who had gone to lay at the feet of the Vicar of Christ the homage of their filial piety. On that memorable occasion, the project was first entertained of holding a Salesian Congress at Turin: then also, by special favour of His Holiness, it was decided that the miraculous image of Mary Help of Christians should be crowned.

These two facts will be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of our Society. In fact, this Congress, repeatedly blessed by the Holy Father, honoured by the presence of distinguished personages hailing even from remotest lands, was crowned with great success and turned out a veritable triumph for Don Bosco and his institution.

I cannot let this occasion go by without giving once more public expression to my sentiments of deep gratitude towards their Eminences the Cardinals and towards the Archbishops and Bishops, who, even at great personal inconvenience, came to add splendour to the assembly by their

presence, and by their counsels assisted in the deliberations. I shall also gratefully remember all those good Co-operators, priests and laymen, who by their example and words were in those days a source of edification and of incitement. It is my fondest hope that, as Cardinal Richelmy put it at the close of a meeting, we may be able to repeat the words of Genesis: *dixit et facta sunt*. God grant that the beautiful deliberations carried in the Congress may all be put into practice, thus bringing about an increase of God's glory and salvation to a greater number of youth.

The Congress was indeed the best preparation for the crowning of Mary Help of Christians. It is utterly impossible for me to convey even a faint idea of the splendour of these festivities; besides, it is needless for me to speak about them as their fame has already spread throughout the whole world. But I cannot conceal the satisfaction it gave me to know that those imposing solemnities did not cause only a passing enthusiasm, nor has their effect been restricted to Piedmont, but they awoke an echo even in the most distant lands.

Everywhere they kindled in the hearts a love for Our Lady Help of Christians and a desire to render honour to her: of this we have undeniable evidence in the great celebrations held, and in the fact that, in many places, the ceremony of crowning the images of Our Lady was performed by the authority of the Bishop of the diocese. Another consoling result of these festivities lies in the fact that the Archconfraternity of Mary Help of Christians has been

erected in many towns and villages, and the number of associates has greatly increased. All this confirms me in the belief that our good Co-operators will not rest satisfied with having crowned Our Lady with a crown of precious stones, but will strive to weave another of much greater worth by saving many souls from perdition.

A further cause of gladness to me and my confrères was the safe return of my representative, the Very Rev. Fr. Albera, after a journey of nearly three years duration. He brought most consoling news about the good that is being done by the Sons of Don Bosco in nearly every Republic of South America.

And I may well mention here another joyful event of the year 1903. Amidst the deep grief in which the Church was plunged at the demise of the great Leo XIII., the elevation of Cardinal Sarto to the Chair of Saint Peter was indeed a cause of rejoicing. Pius X. was personally acquainted with Don Bosco; and, as Bishop of Mantua and Patriarch of Venice, he showed himself exceedingly benevolent towards the Salesian institutions. A few days after his elevation, he was pleased to send the Apostolic Blessing together with a most precious autograph. On the 3rd of November, he granted me a special audience which lasted three quarters of an hour: during this time I enjoyed a converse marked by that fatherly goodness for which the name of Pius X. is already known to everybody, and which has won to him the hearts of all. He gave unmistakable evidence of his great affection for the Association of Salesian

Co-operators, and showed how much good he expects from it. In taking leave of me he was pleased to impart a cordial and ample blessing to all the Co-operators, to their families and to all their temporal and spiritual concerns.

But roses are never without their thorns; and Our Lord has been pleased to visit us with tribulations. Indeed, the sad fate that has befallen my dear children, the Salesians of France, has been to me a source of deepest sorrow. This great nation which had been honoured with the title of eldest daughter of the Church, and which was among the first and most generous in the exercise of charity—this nation, to the grief of all good Catholics, sees now thousands of her citizens, whose only guilt consists in having devoted themselves to the service of God and of their neighbour, dragged before the tribunals, condemned as malefactors, driven from their homes, deprived of everything and compelled to take the road of exile if they wish to be faithful to their vocation. The Salesians, who through the help of charitable Co-operators had opened upwards of twenty houses for poor boys, and built schools and workshops; the Salesians, who had thus won the sympathy of many even non-catholics, had for some months entertained the hope of being spared, and of being allowed to take care of the orphans entrusted to them. But in the first days of July, after a lengthy discussion in the Senate, a decree was issued against them and for the closure of their institutes. You may gauge how deep was my anguish in seeing undone in an instant that

which had cost so much expense and so many sacrifices, and to be compelled to send adrift numbers of children, exposing them once more to perils of body and soul. I cannot but render public thanks to the orators who so strenuously defended our cause, and to the hundred Senators who, in spite of the heavy pressure brought to bear upon them, gave a favourable vote to the Salesians.

Another cause of poignant grief was the sad news that the yellow fever had entered some of our houses in Brazil and claimed nine victims among the personnel. Some of them were among the principal superiors, all in good age, of great ability and zeal. All on a sudden they have been called away from this world, leaving behind a void which we are at a loss how to fill up. Besides, the Rev. Fr. Belloni, the founder of the houses of Palestine has also been called to eternity. The death of this father of the orphans and model Salesian was mourned as a public loss at Bethlehem. It is to be hoped that the benefactors of those institutions will continue their support and aid in maintaining and educating so many poor children in the Holy Land. This is the best tribute that can be rendered to the revered memory of Fr. Belloni.

### **To our early Benefactors.**

Every year I feel it a duty to give some account of our new foundations: the reason is that, ordinarily speaking, from the number of new houses our Co-operators may form some idea of the vitality and progress of our Society. They may also perceive from it how

much our Association is appreciated by Bishops and even by certain Governments who in various ways request us to undertake foundations in their respective dioceses or states for the care of youth.

Besides, these new institutes are a clear proof of the activity of our Co-operators who are anxious to see Don Bosco's works established in their midst. It is, therefore, a duty of gratitude on our part to make known these acts of their zeal and generosity. In doing this, however, we are far from losing sight of the devotedness of many of our benefactors who, even at the cost of heavy sacrifices, have been for years the support of those institutes which have been long in existence. How edifying and encouraging is the constancy of those who, year by year, by their contribution enable us to continue to provide for the maintenance and education of so many poor boys, to foster ecclesiastical vocations, to spread good literature and assist the missions that stand in greater need!

For this reason, when, looking over the registers of our benefactors, I come across the names of those who helped Don Bosco and still continue to help his Successor, I always feel deeply touched and exclaim: lo! these are the labourers of the first hour. Times have changed, the persons with whom they had formerly dealt, have departed; but their good will and charity towards the Salesian institutions remain unshaken. The generosity of these benefactors will be bountifully rewarded; and we, on our part, do not fail to pray every day that its reward

may be proportioned to their perseverance; that they may receive a hundred-fold and life everlasting: *centuplum accipiet et vitam aeternam possidebit*. These are the words of the Gospel: and the words of God do not pass away.

### New foundations.

In the enumeration of the houses opened in the course of the year 1903, I am glad to find several Festive Oratories, in which, as you know, I take a particular interest; for, a Festive Oratory was the cradle of Don Bosco's works.

In 1903 two new ones were opened in ITALY, one at *Ascoli Piceno*, and the other at *Iseo* in the diocese of Brescia; a greater development has been given to those at *Pistoia* and at *Livorno*, and the necessary personnel is now in residence there. SPAIN also has now one more, and it is that of *Huesca*, which has also the elementary schools attached to it.

It gives me pleasure to see another sort of institution increasing in number such as that of Saint George's Homes, Southwark, LONDON where over one hundred working lads receive board and lodging and perform their religious practices: the results obtained during the eight months since we were called to take part in the management, are satisfactory. In October last the Salesians were also called to direct an institution of a similar nature for pupils of public schools in VIENNA the Capital of the Austrian Empire. In this home the boys, after their school hours, spend their time, away from moral and bodily dangers.

Yielding to the request of the Association for the assistance of Italian emigrants, we have sent, at the cost of no small sacrifice, the staff required to carry on schools, elementary and commercial, in two different quarters of the town of *Smyrna*, and the elementary schools at *Constantinople* in TURKEY.

For some years past, the Salesians had been expected in the isle of MALTA to take over the direction of an Institute of arts and trades, which owes its origin chiefly to the exertions of some zealous Co-operators. They have now settled there, and will strive to realise the expectations of those benefactors and of the Government from whom they receive support, by bringing up good christians and upright citizens.

In the ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, a soil so fertile in Salesian institutes, notwithstanding the scarcity of personnel, a festive Oratory has been opened in the past year at *Saint Isidore*, and an agricultural colony has also been started at *Rosario di Cordova*, thanks to the liberality of the Vignaud family.

In BRAZIL an agricultural Colony has been opened at *San Francisco dos Campos*. In ECUADOR, besides giving new life to the institutes which they owned before the stormy days of persecution, the Salesians have opened a house at *Atocha* near Ambato, destined for the formation of the staff required for the schools and workshops. The Institute of Saint Anne founded in the Republic of SAN SALVADOR, Central America, also deserves special mention.

But where the intervention of Providence was even more manifested, is

in the case of the foundation lately entered upon at *Troy*, in the diocese of Albany, UNITED STATES, AMERICA. They greatly needed a suitable place for receiving the children of Italian emigrants and also for taking care of those who give signs of ecclesiastical vocation; and these, thank God, are not rare. There was already some question of acquiring a site at Newark, not far from NewYork, even at the risk of incurring heavy liabilities. But when His Grace Mgr. Farley, Archbishop of NewYork, heard of our intentions, he readily placed at our disposal a large and commodious building in the city of Troy, formerly used as a Seminary. Whilst publicly and warmly thanking His Grace, I express my fondest hope that those to be received within its walls may ever prove themselves worthy of so signal a favour.

Before closing this summary, I may mention another fact, not devoid of interest for the readers of this letter. The sons of Don Bosco, whilst compelled to leave the soil of France and seek hospitality in the neighbouring countries, did not forget the children entrusted to their care. They endeavoured, to the best of their abilities, to make suitable provision for them, and in the case of the most needy a home was provided in more hospitable lands; they gave thus a noteworthy example of devotedness and true christian charity.

### **New Houses of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.**

From what I have gathered by personal visits and from various com-



munications, I am convinced that Almighty God blesses in a special manner the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Their sphere of action assumes greater proportions each year; nor, thank God, has their activity in any way abated. It seems as if Divine Providence had destined them to replace a mother's care towards many children whose parents, compelled to work from morning till night, are unable, if they would, to look after them, so many are the infants' homes and schools conducted by the Sisters. All are aware of the good that is being done in institutions of this kind; but only those who have visited them, especially on certain occasions, can form an idea of the long, patient toil required in training those tender souls.

In consequence of the highly satisfactory results obtained, they have been, during the year 1903, called upon to take the direction of similar institutions in various parts of ITALY, namely at *Livorno, Mede, Bellagio, Jerago, Villadossola*; and (in Sicily) at *Modica, Piazza Armerina, Biancavilla, Balestrate* and *Parco*.

During this year also, their number of elementary schools and also of training colleges has increased considerably in Europe and America; there many girls are prepared for the career they will pursue in life. As the outcome of successful experiments made in several places, the Sisters are now also taking care of girls employed in factories and manage homes for them; this year they went to *Legnago* for this kind of work.

I mention by the way the opening of new schools at *Valencia* in SPAIN

and at *Lipeloo* in BELGIUM. I must also note that they have established themselves at *Chertsey* not far from LONDON, where their chapel, an iron structure, is also the church of the Mission. God grant that they may contribute to the salvation of many. I cannot close this summary review without returning thanks to Our Divine Lord Who deigns to make use of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to do good to so large a number of girls by means of Festive Oratories, which have, during this year, become considerably more numerous and prosperous, especially in certain Republics of South America. In pointing out the good effected by these institutions I cannot but turn to the zealous benefactors and benefactresses to whose help it is largely due; and I say to each of them with feelings of lively gratitude: behold the fruit of your charity!

### Proposals for the new year 1904. Help for the Missions.

We, every day, repeat the prayer: *adveniat regnum tuum* "thy kingdom come." In these words we express our burning desire that the kingdom of Satan may be destroyed; that Our Divine Saviour Jesus Christ may be everywhere known, loved and adored; that He may reign in every heart, in every family, in every nation. But if we really wish to render our petition agreeable to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we must contribute, in the measure of our strength, and by our good works, to the extension of His kingdom. And this is precisely what our Co-operators

do when they come to the assistance of the Missionaries.

Our beloved Father, Don Bosco, allowed himself no rest, until he succeeded, at the cost of great sacrifices, in introducing his priests and catechists into PATAGONIA. Oh! how much he must rejoice now in Paradise (where we believe him to be) in looking down upon those immense regions, where missionary stations and schools are now to be met with here and there. Those lands have been traversed in every direction by his priests; they are no longer, as of old, overrun by repulsive Indians, but inhabited by christian and civilized populations. The aspect of those endless plains is now wholly changed, so that the day is not far distant, in which, both for civil and religious government, Patagonia will be placed on an equal footing with the other provinces of the Argentine Republic.

It must certainly give pleasure to all to hear of this progress, due to the labours of the Missionaries, and in part to the generosity of our Co-operators, the fruit of their almsdeeds. Much, however, remains still to be done in order to carry on this work of regeneration. It is often a great grief for the intrepid Apostle of Patagonia Mgr. Cagliero, to find himself hindered, through lack of means, from setting his hand to many undertakings suggested to him by his zeal. He has, in spite of his age, crossed the Ocean once more in order to be again in the midst of his labours. I feel confident that our Co-operators will not fail to be mindful of him.

From TIERRA DEL FUEGO and from DAWSON ISLAND we have also news that cannot but bring us joy and comfort. Those peoples but recently converted to christianity, are making steady progress; their habits and manners are refined by the influence of religion, and whilst the young portion is growing imbued with christian spirit and sentiments, the old die more resigned and comforted by the belief and hope of the future life. I must not conceal, however, that the work of the missions is somewhat crippled by the great expenses entailed in going in search and providing for the unhappy savages of those inhospitable regions. It is for this reason that I point out this mission to you as one of the most deserving.

The mission among the *Coroados* Indians in the State of MATTO GROSSO, Brazil, has made great progress in the course of this year. Little by little these savages, disinclined though they are to do any work, are becoming accustomed to till the land and learn the rudiments of our holy Religion.

A new christian village has sprung up in the midst of those virgin forests and it has been dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This good, however, has been achieved at the cost of innumerable and very heavy sacrifices. The letters of Fr. Balzola, so full of interest, give us some idea of the hardships undergone by the Missionaries. They had to live on what fruits they could get on that soil. The climate, moreover, exceedingly hot and damp, is a source of continual danger to their health. They run risk of falling at any time a prey to wild animals and ve-

nomous serpents. Their greatest danger might come from the savages themselves, if, at any time, disappointed at not receiving the presents they look forward to, they should turn against the Missionary. Their situation is certainly one calculated to rouse sympathy; who would not wish to help them and share in their sacrifices?

Mgr. Costamagna, the Vicar Apostolic of MENDEZ AND GUALAQUIZA in Ecuador, after long and perilous journeys through populations that had never seen a Bishop, has returned once more among his *Jivaros* of Gualaquiza. His presence gave a great impulse to the Mission. One of the chiefs promised that they would never wage war with each other again. The *Jivaros* have learnt to look upon the Missionary as their father, their protector and their judge in every dispute. It is enough for anyone to place himself under the protection of the Missionaries in order to be respected by the Indians: the Missionary's cross has greater influence on them than the sword of the soldiers. It is to be regretted that, at times, in order to go in quest of means, they have to absent themselves to the grave detriment of their neophytes.

You know also, dear Co-operators, that in spite of the civil war raging in COLOMBIA, the good Catholics of this unfortunate Republic, animated by the exhortations of Fr. Evasius Rabagliati, continue to help the poor lepers by performing wonders of charity; they have also collected alms for two new Lazarettos.

Some Salesians and several nuns, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians,

have embarked last November at Genoa, to devote themselves to the care of those sick people whom their nearest relatives, at times shun and abandon, in dread of the contagion.

How true it is, that in our Missions, Divine Providence has opened a vast field of action for the Salesians to exercise their zeal in, and for the Co-operators to show their generous charity. We should endeavour to accomplish the good which Almighty God is expecting from us.

Bearing in mind Don Bosco's commendations, his sons in the various Republics of South America have for years interested themselves in behalf of the numerous emigrants assisting them in various ways in keeping steadfastly to the practice of religion. A similar work has been commenced a few years ago in the United States, at San Francisco, California, and at New-York. In the latter city a new parish, that of the Transfiguration, has been undertaken in the course of last year. The new Institute opened recently at Troy, will, it is hoped, contribute effectively in extending this good work in other parts of the States.

### Conclusion.

In bringing this letter to a close, my mind turns to the thought which runs through the whole of the beautiful Encyclical with which Pius X. opened his Pontificate: *instaurare omnia in Christo* "to re-establish all things in Christ."

The Holy Father has pointed out the great evil which afflicts society at the present time: for, countless cala-

mities have come upon it because it has forsaken Him Who is the source of all good, the way, the truth and the life, Our Divine Saviour Jesus Christ. Therefore, in the words of the Pope, it is necessary to restore the reign of Christ over souls. The Salesians and their Co-operators, who, in Don Bosco's mind, should be faithful interpreters of

edify their neighbour with their exemplary life; lastly, if by their prayers, their words and their almsdeeds, they endeavour to sustain and promote the works of our Association. All these things have been warmly recommended in the Congress and often inculcated in the Conferences; let us make it our duty to put them in practice.



Garrison of Las Lajas (Patagonia).

the sentiments and desires of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, should ever remember that they have an important part in effecting this social restoration.

This they will achieve if they keep closely united to the Pope, to the Bishops whom the Holy Ghost has appointed to rule the Church; if they avoid such company or readings which are likely to impair or endanger that uniformity of sentiment we should always have with the Church our Mother; if they

Imploring God's choicest blessings on you and on your families, and assuring you that every day special mention is made of you in our public and private prayers, with sentiments of profound gratitude, I am, dear Co-operators,

*Your humble and devoted servant*

**MICHAEL RUA.**

Turin, January 1st, 1904.



## COLOMBIA



### A second journey in aid of the Provincial Lazaretto of Antioquia.

#### I.

##### Before the journey.

Medellin (Colombia) Feb. 2nd. 1903.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

**I** AM writing to you again just previous to my long journey; but as it is only about eight days since my last letter, this contains hardly anything new.

The members of the Committee that I have formed, met to-day in the Archbishop's palace. This same Committee was confirmed by the Government to arrange the building of the Provincial Lazarettos.

His Grace the Archbishop presided. It was resolved that I should immediately start on a second journey to collect the necessary funds. During my absence they will be busy with difficulties enough that still hinder the carrying out of this urgent undertaking. But believe me, the greatest obstacle is not that of providing funds. As for myself I would eagerly do my utmost in order to commence without delay, and thus bring the work to a speedy completion; but the devil does not view the building of these Lazarettos with favour, and I already see that he is trying hard to wreck my plans. God's Will be done! I place myself in the arms of His Divine Providence. But you need not be surprised if progress is slow.

At any rate, to-morrow I set out, ready to

face all. There is one thing I regret, and that is having to make the journey alone. The priest who had promised to accompany me, has wired to the Archbishop and to me, saying that, through the illness of some of his people, he feels bound to remain in his parish. I shall return for a short retreat between Palm Sunday and Easter; and so, if no news comes till then you need not be uneasy on my account; the more so as the Archbishop, with whom I am in telegraphic communication, would keep you informed if anything special occurred. I trust that God will lead me back safe and sound, and do you also remember me in your prayers at Holy Mass.

Begging your blessing, believe me

Your affectionate and obedient son

EVASIUS RABAGLIATI

(Salesian Priest and Missionary).

#### II.

##### After the second journey.

Medellin (Colombia) April 2nd. 1903.

VERY REV. AND DEAR FATHER,

**H**ERE I am, back again from my second journey among the population of the district of Antioquia. In the first journey I visited the towns and villages in the South-east direction; and this time I visited those of the South, as far as the borders of the district of Cauca. This second journey lasted fifty-six days, and it was all made on the back of three mules: when one got tired I gave it rest for some days; and so on in turn till they carried me back to Medellin safe and sound.

During December and January I visited twelve centres of population, founding in each a branch of the Bank of the Lazaretto for the lepers of this district. In February and March I visited twelve other centres and with much more satis-

factory results; so much so that the Committee has been able to put together a fairly good capital for this colossal undertaking. Oh! if the currency of these Colombian bank-notes were not so low! Still, since this capital will all be employed here, it will be of some value, whereas it would be insignificant if it had to be cashed elsewhere (1).

This second journey was as successful as the former, although longer and more fatiguing: add to this that I was, almost quite alone having only one lad to show me the road, and days passed without our exchanging a word. Although often exhausted by the fatigues of the long journey I was never depressed; both because of the holy mission I was pursuing, and of the enthusiasm that I met with everywhere. Without my knowing it, both the Ecclesiastical and Civil Authorities had sent on before me everywhere ample recommendations, with the result that the parish priests and mayors paid every attention and rendered me many valuable services, placing me thereby under a great obligation. To them the happy results of this journey are in a large measure due.

There was no lack of incidents. Once, on a high mountain pass, while I was wholly taken up with my thoughts, and even more, engrossed by the sight of a steep descent that made me hold on tight to the saddle, I suddenly heard someone calling me by name. Quite surprised, I turned round to see who it could be that recognized me in such a locality. There I saw a poor leper running towards me, shouting and nodding at me to stop, as he wanted to speak to me. I soon recognized him also, for I had seen him a few months before at the Lazaretto of *Agua de Dios* during the mission given there in the month of October.

"How is it that I find you here, my son." I asked him.

"Well Father, I have been here for some days now. As I was afraid that, remaining in Manizales, my native place, I would be discovered

and compelled to return to the Lazaretto, I preferred to come and stay in a hut in these mountains, where at least I find something to appease my hunger.

"But why did you leave the Lazaretto?"

"Why," he said "in the Lazaretto we were dying of hunger. The price of food was getting higher every day; and the allowance was always the same. One could no longer live with one *peso* a day. As for myself, owing to the state I am in, without hands and even unable to dress myself, I needed the attendance of one whom, of course, I had to pay and keep: and that one *peso* was little indeed when it had to be divided between two people. We were both suffering tortures that betokened a speedy death. I had, therefore, to make up my mind; either to die there of hunger or quit at once. I took the latter course; for, wretched as my state is, still I am more afraid of death. So, one fine day, together with fifty other fellows of the district of Antioquia, and all lepers, I quitted the Lazaretto, and I arrived here after thirty days journey, begging my food on the way. The others, being in a worse state than I, are lagging behind, but they will not be long coming..... I know I have done wrong," he added, "still I cannot regret it; for, here I shall not suffer so much as at the Lazaretto; I feel certain that the charitable people who have received me, will not let me starve."

I understood at once that he could not be shaken from this determination, and that any attempt to induce him to return to *Agua de Dios* would be useless; the more so, as I myself was convinced that his reasons were good. Accordingly I only gave him some directions concerning his dealings with the people who had been so good as to receive him, lest they might be infected with the disease. I gave him some assistance in money and then resumed my journey towards the town of Manizales.

When I got there, I learnt from the authorities that the arrival of those fifty runaway lepers among the population of Pereira (a town a few leagues away from Manizales) as could be expected, had filled everyone with consternation.

I must add that, unfortunately, I found lepers

(1) You must bear in mind that the discount is even now 10,000 per cent! It is almost beyond belief that it could have risen as high as 24,000 per cent! — So that one million pesos now, would correspond to the value of one hundred thousand in normal time.

in all the populations I have hitherto visited. On account of the too frequent and heedless intercourse between the diseased and the healthy persons, the centres of infection grow daily more numerous. It is greatly to be feared that, unless a prompt remedy is applied, the whole of Colombia will become an immense Lazaretto. And now we are in winter; in this season the roads are impracticable, the rivers swell so much that it would be rash to attempt to cross them, and those who are bold enough to attempt it, often do so at the cost of their life. I will, therefore, spend these winter months here, and await the fine weather to resume my journeys. Meanwhile they will start building.

Bless me, dear Father, and all the poor lepers and the Salesians and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who have care of them, and believe me

Your affectionate and obedient son

EVASIUS RABAGLIATI.

(Salesian Priest and Missionary).

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## PATAGONIA

(TERRITORY OF NEUQUEN.)



Pastoral Visit and Mission of His Lordship

Mgr. Cagliero

Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia.

(Continued)

The hill of the bell—A zealous woman  
—Towards Codihué—The devil's well.

LEAVING *Loncopué* we stopped at Mr. Nazarre's *estancia*. Although living at some distance from the chapel, he had attended the Mission services with his household, his two elder daughters having been prepared for their first Communion.

Here we were offered some refreshment and took leave of many other friends who came to see us off; then began the toilsome way of Cal-

vary, up and down the lofty summits of the Andes.

Mr. Nazarre and many others accompanied us for more than two leagues. They were of great assistance in the dangerous descent of the high banks of the *Manzano* and the *Yumu-Yumu*, as well as in crossing these two rivers. On the left bank of the *Rio Agrio* we took leave of our good friends of *Loncopué*, many of whom were desirous of accompanying us to *Guarinchenuque*.

We rested a while opposite the famous hill of *Campana-Mauhida* whose slopes are watered by the *Agrio*. On the East lie rich mines of silver, copper and iron; and on the West, by some unexplained phenomenon, a sound like that of a large bell is heard from time to time, for which reason the Indians have named the place *Campana-Mauhida*, signifying the Hill of the Bell. This was the spot where many of their battles took place, and often the slopes of the hill ran with blood and were covered with the bodies of the slain. The valley of the *Agrio* is still inhabited by its primitive owners, the Indians. Having been baptized and civilized they support themselves by agriculture, owning large flocks, fields of wheat and fertile meadows.

Towards dusk we entered the valley of *Guarinchenuque* (the cemetery of birds). Having forded the little river, we accepted gratefully the hospitality which Mr. John Béroisa offered us in his hut. As we did not intend to give a Mission there but only to remain one night, it was a special Providence that gave us the help of a fervent and devoted Chilian woman. Disregarding the darkness of the night and the difficulties of the tortuous paths, she went round to the various huts giving notice of our arrival to all the inhabitants of this extensive valley, so that they might profit of the opportunity for the benefit of their souls. At this welcome news, they left their huts bringing in haste their children to be baptized and confirmed. They also complied with the 2nd and 3rd precepts of the Church, not having seen a priest for many years. In a poor room, as bare as the stable of Bethlehem, we had prepared a small altar, and after a fervent exhortation from the Bishop,

the Confessions began and lasted the greater part of the night.

At early dawn the next morning the Holy Sacrifice was offered. Boys and girls, accompanied by their parents, made their First Communion. More than eighty were confirmed and many marriages were blessed. The Indians also of the neighbourhood came to be baptised and to receive the other Sacraments of the Church.

Having finished this little Mission, we bid farewell to these good Christians and neophytes, and continued our journey to *Codihué*. We passed near a lofty mountain on whose summit

as if aware of the decline of day, galloped down the slope of *Codihue* and in less than two hours we had ridden nearly twenty miles. *Codihué* (an Araucanian word signifying *rolling stone* of which we saw plenty) is an ancient fortress now in ruins. We put up at the house of Mr. Ascheri, an Italian, who, by dint of incessant labour and more than common ability, has transformed this part of the valley, which is his own property, into a garden full of beautiful flowers, with green meadows and rich pastures. We were well received, and the generous hospitality he accorded us restored our strength which had



The Plain of Norquin (Patagonia).

the condors, vultures, and magnificent eagles of the Andes make their nests. They are the great *robbers* of Neuquen. In the deep valleys and the lofty plateaus they seek their prey, carrying away in their talons frisky kids and tender lambs as dainty morsels for their eaglets. A famous hunter of the Cordilleras killed a large condor whose outspread wings measured nearly seven feet in width. Before leaving the picturesque plain of the *Agrio* to ascend a gorge of the Andes, we noticed at the side of the road a deep well called by the Indians *Pozo de Guailicho* (Devil's Well) because they believe he uses it as an entrance to his abode. It is more than sixty yards in circumference, and some years ago the depth could not be measured, but now it is covered with ashes and resembles a huge funnel.

Having passed this celebrated well, our horses,

been exhausted by the wretched meals of the previous days.

Continuing our journey we crossed the river *Codihué*, a short distance from *Aichol*. The source of both is in the chain of the Andes and after watering many valleys and pleasant meadows, they join the *Agrio* near the ancient fortress. We met with no obstacles on our journey until we reached a dangerous path cut in the rock on the right bank of the river *Agrio*. We entered upon it full of fear and trembling but, thanks to God, we got through without accident. From that point we beheld on the horizon the long expected village and military post of *Las Lajas*, the centre of the Territory of Neuquen situated at an equal distance from *Chos-Malal* and from *Junin de los Andes*. It is an extensive valley rich in vegetation thanks to the waters of *Rio Agrio* and the marvellous fertility of the soil.



**At Las Lajas—Solemn reception—A Military Mass—A consoling Mission—The and regiment of Cavalry.**

The stream *Las Lajas* (so called from the neighbouring slate quarries) joins the above-named *Agrio*, and gives its name to this important district. This extensive and beautiful plain is surrounded by lofty mountains and bounded on the west by the Cordillera of *Aichol*. It comprises a fertile territory of about a thousand hectares, but is frequently devastated by hurricanes. It is the camp of the 2nd Regiment of cavalry, which is employed in guarding the frontier and keeping open the communication between the fortresses and garrisons of *Roca*, *Chos-Malal* and *St Martin de los Andes*.

In front of a piazza planted with avenues of tall poplars, stands a fine building used as barracks; it is surrounded by many houses; the streets are well made and clean, suitable to a country town which, by its position and progress, is destined in a short time to become an important city, and perhaps the capital of the Territory. Nevertheless, even at *Las Lajas* the effects are still visible of the terrible inundation of the *Agrio* in 1899, when the Church and other public buildings were destroyed.

At a distance of three leagues from the camp, the good Colonel Gras Martino, an intimate friend of Mgr Cagliero and of the Salesians of Patagonia, had sent a soldier to meet us, followed by an officer and two sergeants as a guard of honour to the Bishop. On the approach of His Lordship, the Regiment deployed as for a review, the flags floated in the breeze, whilst the officers with their numerous squadrons, to the strains of the military band, saluted their venerated Pastor, who, filled with emotion, blessed them, acknowledging their salute. Further on, in a corner of the piazza, we were met by a deputation of the chief inhabitants, who saluting us with great cordiality, offered us the use of a spacious and well-furnished house. In this house we found a devotional chapel, adorned with the national flag, and on the altar, surrounded by flowers, lighted tapers and lamps, we were surprised to behold, as in a heavenly vision, the ever dear picture of our own Madonna, the

only object saved from the terrible inundation of 1899.

The day after our arrival the civil and Military Authorities, the inhabitants and the Regiment were present at a Military Mass celebrated by the Bishop in the hall of his new Palace, decorated with the flags of many nations. After the Holy Sacrifice, His Lordship addressed a fervent allocution to the soldiers, speaking of this act of worship offered to the God of armies before Whom the greatest and most renowned warriors bend the knee, recalling the example of Constantine the Great when conquering the Roman Empire, John of Austria at the battle of Lepanto and John Sobieski delivering Vienna. He taught them how to show their love to God by keeping His Commandments and to reverence and fear His Almighty Power. Finally he exhorted them to the practice of docility, respect and obedience in order to fulfil their duty as Christians and manifest their love of country. After this solemn function a photograph was taken of His Lordship, surrounded by his clergy and the officers, in the act of blessing the troops.

Our stay at *Las Lajas* lasted twelve days. During this time Fr. Dominic Milanese and Fr. Matthew Gavotto arrived from the important Mission of *Trucumán*. *Venerunt cum exultatione portantes manipulos suos*; they were a great help to us. Not only the inhabitants of *Las Lajas*, but those also of the neighbouring valleys of *Cahunco*, *Codihué* and *Aichol* attended the Mission. Many Indians came a distance of sixty miles and even more, to be instructed in the truths of the faith and to receive the Sacraments of the Church.

But the enemy of all good raised up such a terrible storm and furious wind from the neighbouring mountains, that it covered our camp with black dust and produced the appearance of a solar eclipse. Nevertheless, the numbers of the devout faithful, who, overcoming all obstacles, took part in the religious services, continued to increase. The First Communion of the children and of many poor Indians was invested with all possible solemnity. Many marriages were blessed; the Sacrament instituted by Christ thus making good and honourable

fathers of families. More than three hundred adults were confirmed, amongst whom it was interesting to note aged Indians of eighty years and upwards.

Several good pupils of the Sisters of Charity in Chili presented us with two handsome altarcloths with fine white embroidery, corporals, purificators, artificial flowers and other ornaments for our little altar. The Indians gave us delicious pine-cones, gathered in the forests of the Cordilleras.

The day before our departure for *Cohunco*, a good number of soldiers, having been prepared by suitable instructions, made their confessions and the following morning at the Bishop's Mass, preceded by an exhortation they received Holy Communion and Confirmation. The same day at ten o'clock, Fr. Milanesio celebrated a Military Mass in the piazza of our residence, at which the local Authorities, the Colonel and his whole regiment assisted. Seizing the opportunity of this devout function, the zealous Missionary, with his usual eloquence, incited these good soldiers to the fulfilment of their religious duties.

Of our sojourn in *Las Lajas* we shall ever preserve a grateful remembrance, not only on account of the spiritual fruits of the mission but also of the affability of the Authorities and the goodness of the inhabitants, not forgetting the kindness of the Colonel, the officers and soldiers of the 2nd Cavalry regiment.

(To be continued.)

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## ECUADOR

### From the Pacific to the forests of the Amazon.

(By Fr. Tallacchini Salesian Missionary).

Farewell—On board of the *Peru*—Guayaquil—Recognized—On the railway.

THE School of Arts and Trades in Lima, the beautiful city of the Kings, was adorned as for a great feast. From the balconies and intermingled with the foliage of the gardens, a hundred

flags of various colours fluttered in the breeze. Masters and pupils, young and old, manifested the sentiments of common joy which animated them; they were keeping the feast of their holy patron St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

This joyous feast was concluded by a charming musical and literary entertainment in honour of Mgr. Costamagna, Vicar Apostolic of Mendez and Gualaquiza. The unexpected words of farewell from the Bishop were, for Superiors and pupils alike, a sad termination to the festivity. When would he start for Ecuador, where, in addition to six Institutes, the wild tribes of the Eastern forests had been awaiting the third Salesian Bishop to snatch them from Satan's snares? The departure was to take place in a few days.

The following day His Lordship went to Callao in order to visit his sons in that seaport. But the steamer *Peru*, in which we are to sail, is before its time. It has arrived to-day, June 22nd, from Chili and leaves to-night for the North. Hence the preparations for our departure are hastened, and at mid-day we are on board, accompanied by a few of our confrères and pupils who had heard of our hasty departure.

Farewells cost a few tears, even to those inured to them. Our vessel, allowing us time to pay this tribute of affection, steamed slowly from the quay and anchored in the centre of the bay. Here our friends took leave of us, returning to land in the boats of the *boleros*.

The evening closed in. The moon was reflected on the placid surface of the gulf. From the belfries of Callao, across the sea the *Angelus* rang out and was echoed back from the rocky island of San Lorenzo, which protects the entrance to the harbour. All is peace, in the skies, on the sea and on land; but perhaps in the depths of the ocean those titanic forces are still active which, one hundred and fifty years ago, cast up this island, and vomiting forth mountains of water utterly destroyed the city and its suburbs. So not long ago these subterranean forces were dealing out death and destruction in one of the fairest islands of the Antilles. (1).

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(1) Referring to the eruption at Martinique in May 1902.

The *Peru* pursues her way, whilst we recite the *Ave Maris Stella* and direct our last looks towards our brethren, to the boys, and our friends of Peru and Chili, so much that is dear vanishing from our sight with the fast receding coast. Then also, our hearts yearn for the Oratory, for the shores of our native land.

Four days of our journey pass happily, interrupted only by calling at a few Peruvian ports.

On a brilliant morning (June 27th) our vessel, leaving the ocean, turned her prow towards the estuary of Guayas which pours into the Pacific the waters of many large rivers. On our left we passed the beautiful island of Punà with its crown of tiny islets and ascended the river by the South Channel of Jambeli, immortalized by the genius and the valour of Garcia Moreno. As we approached the coast the woods greeted



View of the military encampment of Las Lajas (Patagonia).

On the left the boundless ocean; on the right sandy shores, sometimes diversified with green and smiling valleys; then bare rocks losing themselves in the waves, the home of the sea-lion, of sea-birds and pelicans. The Holy Sacrifice is offered daily on board, and we try to do some good, directly or indirectly, by means of conversation, distribution of leaflets and even by music.

All recognize the Bishop's talents. Peruvians, Chilians, French, English and Germans all seek his company, reverence him and listen eagerly to his words, desiring to learn all about the work of Don Bosco.

us with perfumed zephyrs; the water assumed a yellowish hue; we were saluted by the chattering of parrots, the screams of monkeys and the lazy plunging of crocodiles.

But now all eyes are fixed upon the left shore where the *Pearl of the Pacific*, the city of Guayaquil, with its beautiful palaces and slender turrets, is seated like a queen crowned with woods and streams; Guayaquil, the city of toil and of pleasure, arising like a phoenix from its ashes more beautiful than ever. It still bears traces of the fiery catastrophe which, in 1896 and again in 1899, consumed the greater part of the city.

We greeted you, beautiful city, wishing you prosperity, as we bid you farewell when, through political hatred, you banished us so short a time before your destruction by fire. To-day all wears a smiling aspect, yet, in twenty days, ashes and ruins will replace twenty-eight fine streets. It may be God would thus efface the blood-stains of a fratricidal war.

To avoid complications we reached Guayaquil incognito. But Mr. Fernandez Madrid, Captain of the port, who had made the Bishop's acquaintance when he visited Ecuador in 1890, coming on board, recognized him at once and took him on shore in his own boat. That evening the vendors of newspapers were calling in the streets ["Landing of Bishop Costamagna."

The people of Guayaquil, who for many years had not seen a Bishop, were agreeably surprised. The clergy, both secular and regular, hastened to offer our Vicar Apostolic the usual greetings. The Chapter generously gave the Bishop the use of the Cathedral, where he kept the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul.

We remained two days in Guayaquil at the so-called Philanthropic School, of which three of our confrères have had charge for several months. It is a fine house with good classrooms and workshops, frequented daily by nearly six hundred youths. The fires, which have so frequently, and even again last year, laid waste the city, have hitherto spared this building.

On the 29th the Bishop presided at the distribution of Prizes in the College of St. Aloysius, founded and directed in the Episcopal Palace by that indefatigable apostle, Canon Santisteban. His Lordship's speech, wishing prosperity to Christian Schools and Institutions, gave great satisfaction... Now, alas! that College with the Episcopal Palace and a portion of the Cathedral have been reduced to ashes.

The same evening we had an opportunity of appreciating the musical talent of the youth of Guayaquil in a most successful weekly meeting held in the Philanthropic School, where our pupils gave also proofs of their ability in literary and dramatic exercises.

In the early morning of the 30th June, a fine

steamer took us across the river to the opposite shore illuminated by the first rays of the sun. Here we found awaiting us in the station of Durán the train in which we were to make our first day's journey on land. We had a pleasant run through magnificent scenery.

By midday the train no longer ran, it flew as a civilizing conqueror, traversing interminable forests through a tunnel of green boughs which seemed to withdraw to let us pass. Along the railway line we admired the varied effects of light and shade in the woods enamelled with bright-hued birds; the thickets of bamboo, the lofty india-rubber trees, the numberless creepers hanging in festoons from the branches. From time to time the trees receded allowing us glimpses of blue sky, rich fields of banana and sugar-cane, gigantic palms, prolific plantations of cacao, coffee, cotton and saffron; slow and muddy streams; pleasant villages of thatched houses supported on piles, as a safeguard against serpents and floods. After four hours spent amidst ever fresh and lovely views, the panting engine mounts a steep ascent; from the thinning woods comes a breeze less tropical and more refreshing and even chilly, when towards three o'clock in the afternoon the thunder of the torrent *Chimbo* is heard. On its banks the new line diverges from the old, and following the latter, we change trains and continue our journey. We have entered a mountainous region. The stream *Chimbo* with the *Chanchal* and the bare and jagged rocks offer a determined opposition to the steam-engine, which can only be compared to that of the wild forests. Valleys, airy bridges, rocky precipices would daunt the engineer, sometimes enclosing the train in a stony defile, or skirting the edge of a precipice; here bridging the foaming torrent, there winding up the mountain side. The train puffing and groaning awakens the distant echoes, and, vomiting forth volumes of smoke, fills the valley with its bellowings. After two hours of this contest our engine comes forth victorious.

(To be continued).





Two da'es to be remembered.

ON the 29th of January falls the *feast of Saint Francis of Sales* the Patron of our Association. This feast, we are glad to say, is now kept solemnly in many places, either on the day itself or on the following Sunday for the greater convenience of the people. On this occasion, moreover, a Salesian conference is held at which the Co-operators and also the faithful are invited to attend. Let it be our endeavour to honour our Patron by taking part in these public celebrations if it is in our power to do so, or at least by some act of private devotion, by approaching the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist praying for the objects and intentions of the Association.

Two days after the feast of our Patron Saint, occurs the *anniversary* of our beloved Father and Founder, *Don Bosco*. His memory, deeply graven in our mind and in our heart, does not permit as to let that day pass without offering a prayer of suffrage and a loving tribute by befriending those institutions which were so dear to him and which he has committed to the care of his followers.



Great benevolence of the Holy Father.

OUR Cooperators who share with us our joys and sorrows, will no doubt read with pleasure of the many tokens of benevolence so graciously bestowed by His Holiness Pius X. during the past few months.

The special audience granted to our Superior General, in which the Pope displayed such paternal goodness, has been already mentioned. To this must be added the two private receptions granted to the Right Rev. Mgr. Cagliero who has just returned to his far off Missions.

Again, on the 3rd of November about mid-day, he received the Very Rev. Don Rua, accompanied by the Procurator General Fr. Marenco, the Superior of the Venetian, Roman and Neapolitan provinces and a few others; among these were the Superiors of the new House at Malta, the Superior General of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians and some visitors from Italy and America. Don Rua presented each one; and when all had kissed the Holy Father's hand, he said:

"It is a real pleasure to me to be in the midst of the Sons of D. Bosco, and now of Don Rua.

"I thank you for the good you are doing for the Church. It is evident that your Institute is the work of Almighty God, and that an Angel assists you from Heaven; for, the development of your mission and the great advantage gained for Religion cannot be explained by human reasons. If an Angel were not directing your work the prodigies performed could not be explained.

"While I shall pray for you, I recommend myself to your good prayers, so that I may be able to bear the heavy cross that Our Lord has willed to lay upon my shoulders. Thus, all in harmony, and with united strength,

we shall be able to work for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

"I bless you, your confreres, your pupils, your families, your benefactors and all your good Co-operators."

Then each one again approached to kiss the Holy Father's hand and withdrew amidst great emotion. The Pope kept Don Rua behind for some moments, fixing another audience at half past five.

That is the meeting before mentioned, in which the Holy Father treated so familiarly with him for about three quarters of an hour.

#### Further proofs.

ON the 29th of October, Fr. Evasius Rabagliati, the Apostle of the Lepers, was also granted a special audience by the Holy Father.

The Pope received him in the antechamber to the throne-room. Mgr. Riccardo Sanz de Samper, private Chamberlain to His Holiness, a native of Colombia and an old friend of our missionary, had procured the privilege of the audience. In announcing him personally, the prelate said:—"The Holy Father is well acquainted with the Salesian Missions among the lepers of Colombia, as I have spoken to him about them; and he is eager to encourage and protect them. Ask whatever you wish for your dear lepers and I am sure you will obtain it. See, here in the Vatican there are various halls specially stocked with sacred vestments, offered to the late Pope Leo XIII. of holy memory, for poor churches and for the missions. You ask, and I will willingly support it."

At half past three exactly Fr. Rabagliati was kneeling at the feet of His Holiness Pius X. presented by the Mgr. Samper himself. Almost the whole conversation turned on the Salesian Missions among the lepers, their increasing numbers and the sad plight of those 30,000 unfortunate beings.

"I bless you from my heart," the Holy Father said in conclusion: "I bless you and your lepers, the Salesians and Sisters who have charge of them and all who help them. Tell

the lepers that the Pope loves them in a special manner, precisely because they are so unfortunate."

At the end of the audience the missionary placed a letter in the hands of the Pope which he graciously received and gave to the Chamberlain there beside him.

That same evening Fr. Rabagliati had a pleasant surprise.

"I have something special to tell you," said a messenger from the Vatican. "Mgr. de Samper read your letter to the Holy Father, who was so greatly moved by it that he immediately turned and opened his safe taking out all the money in it. 'Here are twenty five Napoleons (£20) for the lepers,'" he said, adding "I am sorry they are so few." He put them into this envelope with his own hands. Besides, he sends also these two photographs of himself with his writing underneath, one for the Lazzaretto of Agua de Dios, the other for that of Contratacion. He has also charged Mgr. de Samper to pick out all you have asked for, and in a fortnight's time you can send to the Vatican some trustworthy person to take care of them."

One may imagine what Fr. Rabagliati felt on receiving such news, and how grateful he felt at this paternal benevolence on the Holy Father's part. In fact, through Mgr. de Samper Fr. Rabagliati received four monstrances, four chalices, four pyxes, four sets of holy oil stocks, four cottas, four albs, four girdles and sixteen chasubles of different colours. Besides this, our readers may be pleased to know what the Pope wrote on the photographs of himself. One had: *To my beloved children who are gathered together in the Lazzaretto at Contratacion to be cured of their disease, imploring for them resignation in their sickness, We impart the Apostolic Benediction. Pius PP. X.* The other read as follows;—*To my beloved sons staying at the Lazzarettos which gather in the poor lepers of Colombia, beseeching from heaven resignation in their affliction, We impart the Apostolic Benediction. Pius PP. X.*



The Salesian Institute at Troy U. S. A.

THE new Salesian institute referred to in the annual letter of our Superior General, was opened on the first of November. That imposing and commodious edifice has a history of its own. It had been raised by some protestant sects, and was intended as an advanced educational establishment. But God disposed otherwise. The building had to be put up for sale in 1863, and it was purchased by the Archbishop of New York who turned it into a Seminary for the Archdiocese. Thus for a long series of years, viz. till 1896 when it was replaced by the new Seminary erected at Dunwoodie, N. Y., that place was the Alma Mater of a number of distinguished ecclesiastics who are now filling responsible positions in the Catholic Church of the States.

These records will be no mean incitement, to the present inmates, and bid us hope that Saint Joseph's School may, in its turn, become the nursery of zealous ministers of the Church, answering the expectations that have been raised by its opening and the kindly interest taken in it by friends and benefactors.

For particulars of admission application should be made to the Superior, the Very Rev. E. Coppo. St. Joseph's Institute. 40, Eighth St. Troy, N. Y.



Turin. Departure of Salesian Missionaries.

ON the last Sunday of November the ceremony of the departure of a band of Missionaries took place once more in the Sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians, Turin. This sight, though often repeated in the course of the last thirty years, never ceases to be highly affecting and impressive. It is a sublime spectacle of faith and love that never fails to touch generous souls and to foster the germ of many an apostolic vocation. After the Vespers, the Vicar Apostolic of Patagonia, Mgr. Cagliero, ascended the pulpit. No one could discourse on the Missions, on their marvellous development, more fittingly than he

who had been the pioneer, and, for well-nigh thirty years, has been the life and soul of this peaceful crusade: and he described the rise and formation of the new christian communities on the slopes of the Andes, on the Patagonian plains and on the cheerless shores of Tierra del Fuego—tribes looked down upon as outcasts and doomed to destruction, whose piteous cries found an echo in the heart of Don Bosco.

After Mgr. Cagliero's discourse, His Eminence Cardinal Richelmy imparted the benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament; and, having said the ritual prayers, addressed to the kneeling missionaries touching expressions, invoking on them and on their labours the blessings of God, and the protection of their Heavenly Mother. One by one the Missionaries defiled before the Successor of Don Bosco who had for all a word, a suggestion that is to them a precious souvenir, a comfort in the hour of trial.

To this band of nearly forty, should be added a smaller group who had left some weeks before, after a similar touching ceremony before the tomb of Don Bosco. They are destined for different places either to extend the work of the missions or to fill the void left by those who have been called away to their reward.



Distinguished visitors at the new institute.

A noteworthy incident for the new institute in the yet short period of existence, was the visit paid to it by His Grace, Mgr. Diomedo Falconio, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, and by the Right Reverend Thomas Burke, Bishop of Albany, of which we find notice in *The Troy Daily Express* and in *The Troy Times*.

They arrived on November 17th. accompanied by the Very Rev. C. I. Shea Chancellor of the diocese and by the Very Rev. Fr. Borghino Provincial of the Salesians, and were received by the Superiors and students at the entrance of the college. In answer to an address of welcome by the Director, the

Apostolic Delegate replied in most kindly and encouraging terms, expressing the hope that the students will always "look up to the sublime examples of the great Don Bosco; for, by following his teaching and imitating his example, they could not fail to be, at all times and in all places, an honour to Religion and to their country, and to do an immense good to the great Republic." His Lordship, in his turn, deigned to address them, and his words marked with fatherly affection will be treasured and cherished by students and Superiors.

Among those present at the reception were also the Very Revs. John Walsh of St. Peter's Church, Troy; James Curtin, St. Joseph's; John Hyland, St. Francis'; John Santoro, St. Anthony's; J. T. Emmet, O. S. A., St. Augustine's; F. X. Lize, St. Jean Baptiste's.

The blessing of the Pope's Representative and the good will of the Pastor of the diocese cannot but be regarded as a good omen for the future of the institution, and as a pledge of heavenly favours.

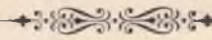


*Cape Town. The evening schools for the immigrants.*

ENCOURAGED by the results obtained in the first experiment, the Superior of the Salesian Institute, Cape Town, had again last year arranged for a course of evening classes for the benefit of the Italian immigrants. His efforts have been well seconded, and the classes were successfully brought to a close on the first of November by a solemn distribution of prizes. A considerable number of persons responded to the invitation and attended personally. The Italian Consul, Cavaliere Bruno Grimaldi, presided and also presented the first prize. The Very Rev. Dr. Sidney Welch opened the proceedings with a forcible and most appropriate address, which was followed by a programme of musical selections and recitations. Before distributing the prizes, the Chairman expressed his satisfaction at the progress of the school and exhorted all to contribute to make it more and more successful.

The Superior of the Institute, the Very Rev. Fr. Tozzi, could not miss such an opportunity of acknowledging their indebtedness to so many kind friends whose sympathy and support had made it possible to obtain such good results. At the close of the entertainment, therefore, he thanked all, and in a special manner Cavaliere Bruno Grimaldi for the interest he has displayed at all times, and the various ways in which he had aided them, and Mr. Oreste Nannucci whose name, he said, is associated with every good work, and towards whom the sons of Don Bosco are under great obligations.

The evening classes will reopen again in February.



#### TO THE READER

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.

Communications and offerings may be addressed to our Superior-General:

The Very Rev. MICHAEL RUA,  
Salesian Oratory, Turin, Italy.

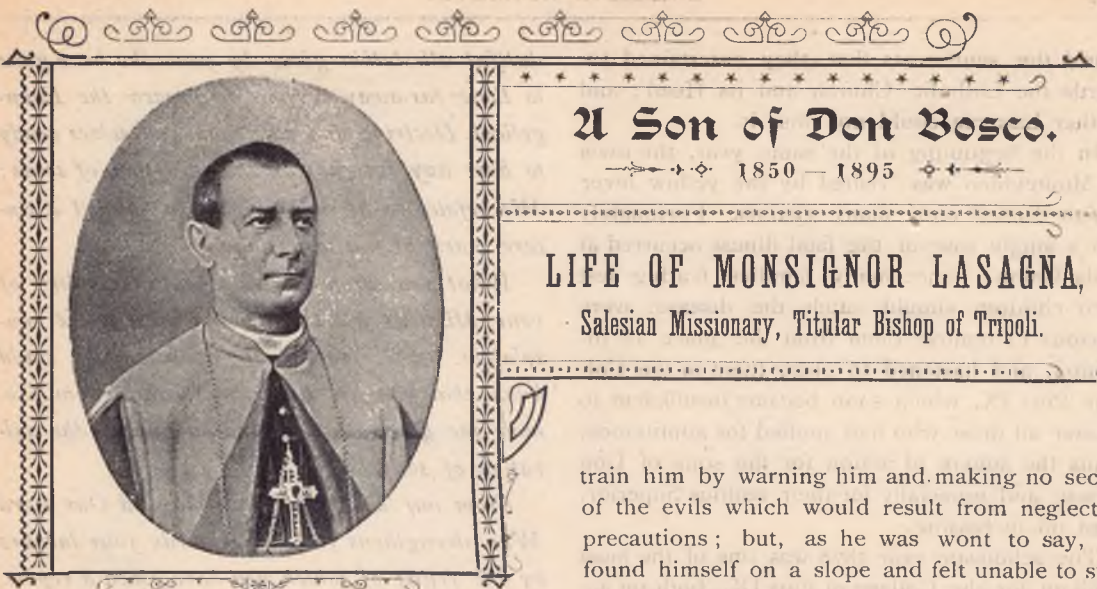
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## The Salesian Bulletin

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.





## A Son of Don Bosco.

1850 — 1895

### LIFE OF MONSIGNOR LASAGNA,

Salesian Missionary, Titular Bishop of Tripoli.

#### CHAPTER XIX.

**Ceaseless activity—God's glory first of all—Funeral service for Pius IX. at Villa Colon—The yellow fever at Montevideo—The new Pope—A precious Brief from Leo XIII—The Parish of Las Piedras—His faith put to the test and rewarded.**

**T**HE college of Pius IX. at Villa Colon was now established, and—to judge from its fruits—on solid foundations. The sisterhood of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, recently transplanted on American soil, gave also the brightest hopes of great results in the work of educating girls in christian piety and virtue. The names of Don Bosco and of the Salesians were favourably known throughout the whole of the Republic of Uruguay; and the field of labour had, in a very short time, assumed considerable proportions. All this was due, to a great extent, to Fr. Lasagna: he was the soul of this intellectual and religious movement.

His zeal extended to every kind of good work, especially when the salvation of youth was in question. Always on the alert, making himself all things to all men, he was sure to be found wherever there was good to be done. His friends, and especially his confrères, felt uneasy on his account, lest this ceaseless toil should shatter his strength; the more so as he was still suffering unremittingly from his former ailments. His Superiors at Turin, and Don Bosco more especially, never tired of enjoining on him care of his health and to take the needful rest: the doctors also, on their part, sought to res-

train him by warning him and making no secret of the evils which would result from neglect of precautions; but, as he was wont to say, he found himself on a slope and felt unable to stop his downward course. Father Joseph Gamba, one of his earliest and most assiduous fellow-workers, affirms that whenever the glory of God was at stake he allowed himself no rest in spite of all his pains. If any one remarked to him: "Your Reverence needs rest: don't tire yourself so much," he would reply: "Never mind, I am not so ill as you think; I shall soon be all right." And he would go on as though nothing had happened.

On the 7th of February 1878, the whole Church was in mourning. On that day at Rome the long life of Pius IX was closed by a saintly death—a life full of joys and sorrows, a succession of triumphs and afflictions. The sad news flashed to all parts, filled the hearts of his children with poignant sorrow. The Salesians could not but feel most deeply this heavy loss; for, in the August Pontiff they mourned their greatest benefactor, the one who by word and deed had sustained their Founder at the most critical juncture, and eventually had approved his Congregation.

In the College of Villa Colon, however, which had been named after the great Pius IX., the grief felt at the death of its Protector naturally assumed a form more solemn in its expression than in any other Salesian House.

The Church of Santa Rosa was all draped in black, and on the 28th of February a solemn funeral service, with well-prepared music was held at which a large number of distinguished persons from the Capital attended. It was a fitting tribute of affection and suffrage rendered to so great a Father by his sorrowing children, It afforded an occasion of making known to the

world the sentiments that they entertained towards the Catholic Church and its Head; and Father Lasagna could not miss it.

In the beginning of the same year, the town of Montevideo was visited by the yellow fever which carried away many victims. Fortunately not a single case of the fatal illness occurred at Villa Colon: hence many families fearing lest their children should catch the disease, were anxious to remove them from the place of infection, and hastened to place them in the College Pius IX. which soon became insufficient to shelter all those who had applied for admittance. Thus the sphere of action for the sons of Don Bosco, and especially for their zealous Superior, kept on increasing.

The scholastic year 1878 was one of the most brilliant for the College of Pius IX., both on account of the number of the pupils and for the highly satisfactory results which crowned the labours of the Salesians.

To this consolation another was soon to be added. I allude to the election of Cardinal Joachim Pecci, Bishop of Perugia, as Vicar of Christ and Head of His Church. The wide reputation of wisdom the new Pontiff enjoyed and the fact of the truly paternal benevolence with which he had received D. Bosco, raised great hopes in the hearts of all our confreres in South America. They hastened to send to the new Pope a message of their joyful sentiments and hearty wishes at his elevation to the Chair of Saint Peter, and their protestation of unswerving fidelity to his teaching; at the same time, they also gave a short account of their work in those regions. His Holiness, not only deigned to accept this homage of filial devotion, but as a token of paternal affection, addressed them a Brief which is well worth reproducing here as an evidence of the account the Vicar of Christ made of the Salesian Mission.

LEO XIII.

BELOVED CHILDREN

HEALTH, AND APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION.

*We have received, together with the details concerning your mission, the letter which on hearing of our election, you have written to Us in order to show your filial reverence towards Us and the Apostolic See. We have been highly gratified, dear children, by this*

*dutiful attestation given by you who have gone to these far-away regions to preach the Evangelical Doctrine and who show yourselves ready to bear any fatigue for the salvation of souls; We rejoice to be able to give to you all a sincere mark of our affection.*

*What you wrote to Us about the work of your Missions filled our mind with great consolation. For, from your narrative we could know that you are labouring zealously to promote the glory of God and to procure the salvation of souls.*

*From our heart We have thanked Our Lord Who strengthens you and rewards your labours by the fruits of which you have given a report.*

*We do not doubt, dear children, that this goodness of Our Lord in your regard will stimulate your courage, so that in closest union with the Apostolic See, you may valiantly persevere in the career you have entered upon; and that seeking only the things that are Jesus Christ's, you may exert yourself so that in these regions the children of light may increase both in number and in merit.*

*Desiring, as We do, above all things the glory and the extension of the kingdom of Christ, We shall have nothing more at heart than to show you all our benevolence and to call down upon you the fullness of all the divine graces, so that you may ever be strenuous promoters of the glory of God and of the salvation of souls.*

*Receive, dear children, the Apostolic Benediction, which from the bottom of our heart, We most lovingly impart to each and everyone of you in Our Lord, as a pledge of heavenly favour and a mark of our paternal affection.*

Given at Rome, near St. Peter's, on the 18th of September, 1878, in the first year of our Pontificate.

(To be continued),

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PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1904.

## 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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