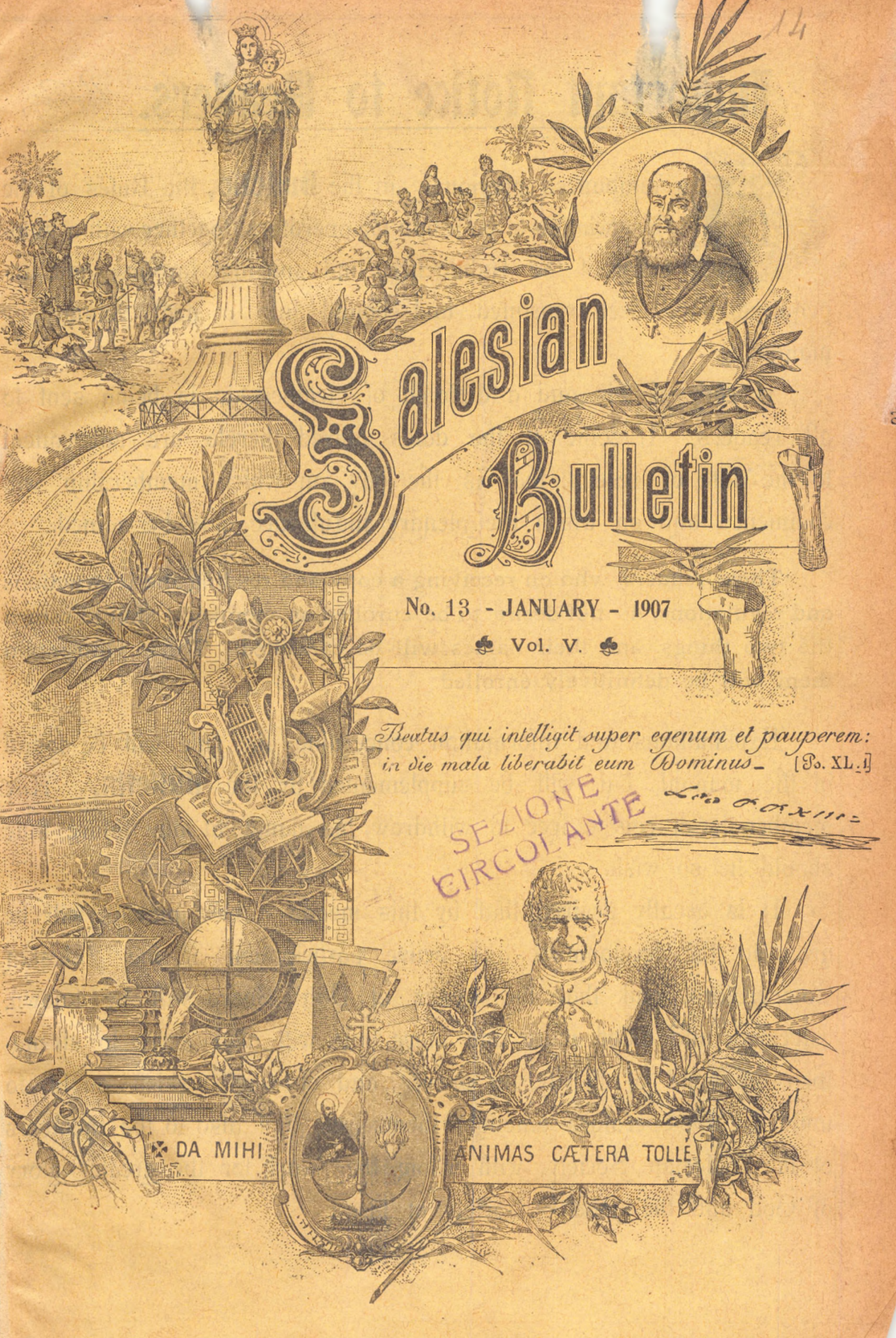


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Salesian Bulletin

No. 13 - JANUARY - 1907

Vol. V.

*Beatus qui intelligit super egenum et pauperem:
in die mala liberabit eum Dominus. [Ps. XL.]*

SEZIONE
CIRCOLANTE

Sancti

DA MIHI

ANIMAS CAETERA TOLLE

Important Notice to Readers.



As announced previously in the **Bulletin**, the Rules of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, together with a summary of the Indulgences and spiritual favours, and appendices, have been reprinted and bound into a neat volume or manual.

A copy of this and a diploma of membership is being sent to all readers. If some of the dates affixed thereto are subsequent to the date of receipt, that is the day on which membership will commence, and on which the plenary indulgence may be gained.

Those readers, who on receiving a copy and reading the instructions and regulations, do not desire to be enrolled as members, should return the two things, and their names will be cancelled. Those who retain them will be definitively enrolled.

Explanations and information concerning the rule will be found in the manual, but will be supplemented by the **Bulletin**. Any member is of course free to withdraw his name at any future time should he so wish.

It is greatly desired that by this means a new impetus will be given to the development and active participation of the Salesian Co-operators, and that the works of Don Bosco will be known, esteemed, and aided more and more. It will also serve to strengthen the bond of charity, of prayer and of work, which ought to unite the Co-operators amongst themselves, and also to the members of the Salesian Society, with whom they work for the greater glory of God and the good of society at large.

The Salesian Bulletin

Organ of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

"Oratorio Salesiano" Turin, Italy.

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ANNUAL LETTER

of our Superior General the Very Rev. Don Rua

To the members of the Association of Salesian Co-operators

Dear Co-operators,

THE years are passing swiftly by, and it is only natural that I should feel their burden ever more and more, but a deep feeling of gratitude to Almighty God grows with them. From the years of my boyhood when the work of Don Bosco was yet in its infancy, until the present day, if in thought I pass those years successively before me, and consider the events

that have made each one memorable, I must confess that they appear to me as a long succession of great mercies, of striking proofs of the Divine Goodness which force me to exclaim:

"How dearly Our Lord has loved us and how greatly He still 'loves us.'"

What was the Work of Don Bosco but sixty years ago? You may estimate its humility by considering that it was confined to a few rooms, and, humanly speaking, no one would have dared to foretell the wonderful development that lay before it. At that time there was



only the commencement of the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales, and during the brief period of a few decades, not only has the first Oratory increased in size, till now it contains almost a little town of children, but so many foundations have been made first in Italy and then in other parts, that it is impossible not to see the guiding hand of the Divine Goodness. It is a duty therefore, for us to offer our thanksgivings to Almighty God for all the blessings of the past and in particular for the year that has just ended.

Proofs of Divine Benediction during 1906.

Within the first six months of 1906 I was able to visit a good number of our Houses, and to meet many Co-operators whom I had not had the pleasure of knowing before. I passed through France to visit the Salesian Houses in the British Isles, whence I returned direct to Portugal, and visited the schools of that country and of Spain before returning to Turin. After a brief stay at the Mother House I visited the Houses of Southern Italy, of Malta, of Calabria and of Apulia. In all these places I saw that Almighty God has made our efforts fruitful, I saw that large numbers of boys are being provided for and also that the Salesian Work continues to be held in the highest esteem. In the many places I visited I was particularly comforted by the numbers of conversions obtained; many Protestants have received the grace of being brought into the true fold and have become fervent Catholics. The cultivation of vocations is every-

where receiving special care, and the work to which Don Bosco attached so much importance, the training of late vocations, is also flourishing; above all I was consoled to see so much good being done by the Festive Oratories, and though in the first place I thank Almighty God most fervently, I feel constrained to testify here my gratitude to the Co-operators as well.

I cannot refrain from expressing thanks to Divine Providence on another account, and that is the special care extended to the Salesians whose work found them in the midst of the disastrous earthquakes in Chile and California. In these terrible catastrophes which, as you know, spread death and ruin on all sides, not one of the Salesians or their boys, or any of the nuns of Mary Help of Christians or the girls in their houses perished, and this is the more surprising when we consider that three of our schools were destroyed and others damaged. The church at San Francisco has already been replaced by temporary accommodation, which was ready for use at the beginning of November last.

We have also reason to rejoice over the successful issue of the Fourth Congress of Salesian Co-operators which was held in Lima, the capital of Peru, and which has given a new impetus to the cause of education in those districts. Perhaps even more successful was the Fifth Salesian Congress held at Milan, which, with the blessing and encouragement of the Sovereign Pontiff and large numbers of the Princes and Prelates of the church, was held in the

summer of last year. Its discussions and resolutions are being given in the columns of the *Bulletin* for the instruction of the whole body of Co-operators. To the promoters of both these congresses I tender my sincerest thanks.

I cannot well pass over two other sources of consolation which the past year brought with it. The first was the opening of the greater part of the New Salesian Church dedicated to St. Augustine at Milan; and the other was the honourable position assigned to the work of Don Bosco at the International Exhibition held in that town. You have already learnt through the *Bulletin*, that the Salesian Society, having been invited to take part in that section which dealt with the work accomplished by it outside Italy, a special commission, presided over by Fr. Durando, sent all the necessary documents to the exhibition authorities; with the result that our work was not only given a conspicuous position, but was adjudged worthy of the highest award. This was not only a consolation to us and all those concerned in the Salesian Works, but will serve to make its methods and needs wider known and serve to show the urgency of material assistance for its development and perfection.

Works completed in 1906.

But now, as your rule demands, I must pass on to what has been accomplished during the year that has gone. You will remember that I announced to you a year ago that *we found ourselves compelled for some years to accept no*

more foundations, on account of the want of material means and insufficiency of staff. Hence the foundations of 1906 were strictly confined to those which had been formally promised at earlier dates.

I. Foundations made by the Salesians.

In **India** the final arrangements were made for the opening of the school of Arts and Trades at Tanjore, and a little later the Salesians commenced a similar work at Macao in **China**. The baptisms and conversions already made give good hope for the future success of these new missions.

In America a new house was opened at Cosquin in the Argentine Republic another at Medellin in Colombia, and a third at Ribeirão Preto in the state of St. Paul in Brazil. A school of Arts and trades was opened at Piura in Peru and a technical-commercial school at Valdivia in Chile, while at Soriano in Uruguay a new parish was undertaken. In the republic of Honduras in Central America a school was opened at Comayagua. Lastly, worthy of special mention is the new colony opened by the purchase of the late Dr. Santos' extensive farm settlements, which will be put into immediate use on behalf of the Indian tribes.

II. The Schools of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians.

The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians were also restricted to a few foundations on account of scarcity of means and personnel. The Mother-General (Sr Catherine Daghero) writes

to me that the nuns have accepted the direction of the school of the Immaculate Conception at **Formigine** in the diocese of Modena, and another at **Genoa**.

Outside Italy they have opened schools at **Atahualpa** in Uruguay, at **Cuzco** in Peru, at Monterrey in Mexico, at Guadalajara also in Mexico, another at St. Tecla in San Salvador. In all of these places there was great need of protection for the children, and of religious and secular instruction. A school and Festive Oratory has been opened at Medellin in Colombia, the working of a hospital has been undertaken at Villa Concepcion in Paraguay, and some sisters have taken up residence among the Bororos Indians in Brazil.

III. The Departure of more Missionaries.

In spite of our straitened circumstances both financially and in personnel, we were compelled to equip and send out another band of missionaries. From many parts, particularly from Patagonia, from Chile, from Matto Grosso, from Venezuela, from the United States and from the East, so many and such persistent demands for increase of staff had been sent, that any sacrifice had to be made to comply with the most pressing. To supply some of these places fifty new missionaries abandoned home and country for foreign parts.

From the mother-house of the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians at Nizza-Monferrato, a goodly number of devoted women have also set out to relieve their sisters in far off lands and to embark on new enterprises.

You will allow that this could not be otherwise than a costly undertaking, and only the greatest need could induce us to contract further debts. May Divine Providence inspire many generous hearts to come to our assistance, and thus obtain a share in the merits which will be gained by this missionary apostolate.

IV. Other important undertakings.

A few other important works we were able to take in hand, either through your generosity, dear Co-operators, or in hopes of some bountiful alms yet forth-coming.

Many churches, whose erection had already been begun, have been pushed on to some degree, and others have been opened where the needs of the population could no longer brook delay. Under this heading we must mention the church opened in the Polish Mission in **London**, another in New York in the parish of St. Bridget. In the suburbs of Spezia too, a new and commodious chapel had to be opened for public use, the one already served by us in that busy port being altogether insufficient.

Some other necessary repairs and alterations have been carried out in different Houses and various works taken in hand which local needs demanded. Such is the undertaking commenced at the parish of *Mater Misericordiae* in Buenos Ayres where special arrangements have been made for the assistance of emigrants of all nationalities, and this work has departments in all the Salesian Houses of the Argentine.

But that which I would in the most pressing terms recommend to your charity is the maintenance of so many hundreds of children whose support is entirely dependent on the alms forthcoming from your charity. The Oratory at Turin for instance did not receive enough during the course of the whole year to supply the bread necessary for the boys. And what of all the other necessaries required, and the materials for the schools and workshops and clothing? And as it is with the Oratory so it is with other Salesian Houses.

Proposals for 1907.

I shall now pass directly to the many things for which your help is required during the year 1907.

“You must know”—wrote Don Bosco to the Co-operators on Jan. 1st 1883—“you must know what your charity, your alms will serve to accomplish in the hands of Don Bosco. They will serve to gather in hundreds of homeless children, to clothe and feed them, and provide them with the knowledge and skill necessary to earn their living as respectable members of society; they will serve to give to society useful citizens, to the Church virtuous Catholics, and to God numerous inhabitants of the heavenly courts; they will serve to train many excellent teachers for youth, zealous priests for the Catholic populations, courageous missionaries for the savage tribes; they will aid the building of new churches where the faithful gather for the service of God, and the administration of the Sacraments; they will aid the spread

of thousands of good books, which will diffuse sound principles, combat error, confirm souls in the faith, and recall wandering sheep to the true fold; they will serve in short to spread the kingdom of God on earth, to make Jesus Christ reign in individuals, in families, in cities and nations, to make Him known and loved, if such were given to us, throughout the entire world, so that the prophecy of old might be fulfilled: His kingdom shall extend from sea to sea: *dominabitur a mari usque ad mare.*”

And now I say to you, dear Co-operators: “Behold the end and object of all your assistance.”

But as during the year 1907 some special works are recommended to your charity, permit me to point them out to you here.

The work of civilization and colonization of savage tribes, which has gained so much admiration and praise, has now become one of the vastest, and morally one of the most fruitful of the works of Don Bosco. The results obtained in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, now entirely gained over to civilization and Christianity, have urged us to undertake similar expeditions on behalf of numerous savage tribes. And the first to present itself to my mind is the territory occupied by the *Jivaros of Ecuador*, whom I recommend ardently to your charity and your prayers; and then that part of Matto Grosso inhabited by the Bororos-Coroados where we have opened three important colonies.

The first settlement, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, was founded in 1902; the

second, that of the Immaculate Conception, in 1905. In the first are maintained at present about three hundred Indians and in the second about two hundred; these numbers seem comparatively large, but dwindle greatly when we place them beside the 10,000 that compose the one tribe of the Bororos. Now in order to facilitate the work of civilization, it was found necessary to make other settlements for the transference of those somewhat civilized, so as to complete their training and to make room for new arrivals. To supply this demand a third colony, under the patronage of St. Joseph, has been initiated, and to this district some members of the latest missionary departure are directed. There the Indians will be taught the various branches of agriculture and the principal trades, while a commencement will be made in the direction of cotton spinning and weaving, so that they will do something towards their own support. If the assistance of God is with us, it is intended to make other settlements nearer and nearer to the town of Cuyabá so that the newly civilized Indians will be brought gradually into contact with the outer world of modern life, and a safe path will be thus made into the depths of the forests. This is a great, but an expensive enterprise, which I recommend particularly to your charity.

Another work which I have greatly at heart, and which cannot be brought to an end without your co-operation is the completion of several churches demanded by the needs of various districts. I would like to convince you, dear Co-

operators, that if assisting in the building of a new church is a work of so much merit, that it gives a right to a participation in all the good that will be done there to the end of time, it is a work of even greater merit to co-operate in the building of the Salesian Churches. For the churches, whose building the Salesian have undertaken, are not only most necessary, but notwithstanding their necessity, they would not otherwise be built, because the places themselves cannot provide the means for their construction. While we ourselves have to thank Almighty God who has made us his weak instruments in this work, difficult indeed, but greatly to his glory, I ought at the same time to recommend them to the charity of the Co-operators, so that we may not be wanting in the designs of Divine Providence.

Among these churches I will mention only four; the church of the Holy Family at Florence, that of Our Lady at Rome, of Mary Help of Christians at Lima and the new parish Church at Viedma in Patagonia. If to these works you add the maintenance of so many thousands of poor children, the paying off of debts already contracted, and the expense necessary to carry on those few foundations from which we cannot draw back, such as the school at Mozambique, and others similar, you will have ample scope for your charity.

Conclusion.

Having testified my gratitude to Almighty God for his mercies during the past year, I cannot finally confide these

new plans to your keeping without also offering my heartfelt thanks to you, my Co-operators.

While year by year I witness the ever increasing influence and esteem which attend the work of Don Bosco, I beseech Almighty God to increase in

dence of God and the charity of Co-operators.

Continue your co-operation, and Our Lady will continue her protection and aid; she will prosper and console you, and reward you with heavenly blessings both in time and eternity.



Artisans who have just completed their course at the Salesian Oratory, Turin (Italy).

me and in all Salesians the spirit of gratitude towards all their benefactors. Whenever I receive your letters asking for the prayers of the boys or of the Salesians I assure you that they are ever confidently laid at the feet of Our Lady Help of Christians. And how indeed could we lose confidence since our heavenly protectress points to so many good works now being accomplished and all depending on the Provi-

Assuring you of a lasting remembrance and participation in the good works of the Salesians, and the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians, and wishing you all prosperity and happiness during this year, with profound respect and gratitude

I am

Your obedient servant

MICHAEL RUA.

Turin, Jan. 1st, 1907.



REPORT OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS.

(Continued).

FIRST SECTION.

Instruction and Education of youth.

D Professor Arduino of the High School at Brescia presided over this section, and under his guidance the following deliberations and resolutions were put before the Congress :

Considering firstly : That the restoration of the social order on christian principles demands, as a necessary supposition, some work of protection and guidance on behalf of the young, that the efforts of the enemies of religion are nowadays so insidious and so manifold, and that while fully recognising the parental authority and responsibility in the matter of christian education, some provision is indispensable to supplement and complete it,

The Congress resolves :

1st. That the Salesian Co-operators should make use of every means supplied by the law to secure freedom in primary teaching, and the safeguarding of the obligation of religious instruction, at least in so far as the local governments allow ;

2nd That they should support in every possible way those schools whose teaching and discipline are guided by thoroughly christian principles ;

3rd That the Sons of Don Bosco and the Nuns of Mary Help of Christians be assisted in their efforts to supply good schools which will have eminently in view the intellectual and religious progress of christian civil society ;

4th. That parents should be most careful in the choice of day and boarding schools for their children and those in their keeping, so that the efforts of the unscrupulous who would rob the young of the inheritance of their religious beliefs, may be defeated.

5th That the schools, especially the boarding-schools, in the thickly populated centres should endeavour to have advanced religious classes, libraries, and recreation rooms attached to them.

6th. That some schools of university standing, provided with every modern requirement, be opened , to supplement primary and secondary

teaching, without danger to the principles and earlier religious impressions of the young.

7th. That supervision be given to the places of recreation frequented by the young, and that suitable arrangements be made to provide opportunities of healthy games and amusements, and that there be some means of securing regular attendance at the Sacraments.

8th. That only those books and papers be allowed whose tone and religious teaching are sound, and that endeavours be made to disseminate good books and that even light reading may be useful and instructive.

9th. That those students who are passing from secondary schools to universities or colleges, be encouraged to join one of the various associations, which have been formed for the purpose of keeping such students in touch with their pastors and the church.

The importance of these resolutions will be readily admitted, and all are suggested by a zeal for the welfare of youth and the future of the Catholic populations. Whenever the Co-operators find themselves in any of the positions above referred to, let them be guided by those rules and principles.

* * *

In the part concerned with the *artisan section* of the boys Fr. Charles Grugni of Milan dealt with professional schools and institutes, homes for working boys and girls and the means for protecting these classes of the young when they have passed beyond the care of the schools, and are earning their own living.

The speaker touched first on the suggestions proposed by former congresses, and following on those lines, laid out the plans for effectually coping with some of the difficulties which beset the working class of the young of both sexes.

Considering the large numbers of young men and women who have now left the various Salesian Schools, or the Institutes of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and the widespread character of the association of Co-operators who can all more or less directly work towards the same end, the Fifth Congress invites all the as-

sociates to interest themselves assiduously in the upkeep of the schools of arts and trades and in maintaining young people either at the schools or in other places from which they can attend the schools in the hours of instruction.

They should also exert themselves in the promotion of associations for the young workers out of school or business hours, to enter them on clubs and societies which have been erected for their welfare and promote especially the associations of old pupils which are attached to the Salesian Schools themselves.

It is only necessary to add to these suggestions that much educational value can be obtained by the proper use of certain of the professional magazines, and that those edited at several of the Salesian Houses are especially suitable in this direction.

Fr. Trione, the Secretary of the Association of Salesian Co-operators, dealt with the agrarian question which was the next subject for discussion. In various parts of Italy and Spain, and in many districts of South America, the Sons of Don Bosco, following out their extensive programme of supplying the young generations not only with religious training, but equally with the means of making a respectable livelihood, have long been brought into close contact with the question of improved methods of cultivation of the soil, and the problem underlying the famous cry of "back to the land" has long been under various processes of solution in their hands. This is why they have taken a foremost place in the movement which has of recent years been set on foot for improved methods, and for combined action in the attempts by the Government and various associations to grasp the difficult situation, caused by the general abandonment of tillage for the alluremeat of large fortunes in other lands.

Several Salesian Institutes are now issuing periodicals dealing with the agricultural interest, and they have in fact achieved great results in many districts. It is hoped that by means of classes both experimental and theoretical, supplemented by reviews and periodicals the agrarian question may be more successfully dealt with than hitherto.

(To be continued).



INDULGENCES

which may be gained by the Co-operators.

The following plenary indulgences may be gained by all the Co-operators who, having

confessed and communicated, shall make a visit to a Church or public chapel, or in the case of communities a private chapel, and pray for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff.

Every month.

1. On any one day at the choice of the associate.
2. On the day the monthly exercise of a good death is made.
3. Whenever the Co-operators shall say five times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory be to the Father* for the welfare of Christendom, and once the same prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father they may gain the indulgences of the stations in Rome, of the Portiuncula, of Jerusalem and of St. James of Compostella; these indulgences, moreover, are all applicable to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and can be gained by the Co-operators as often as the prayers are said, as long as they are in the grace of God.

In the month of February.

1. The Feast of the Purification. Feb. 2nd.
2. The Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Antioch.

The complete list of indulgences and privileges may be found in the issue of January 1905 or in the Co-operators manual. It must be remembered, that the present Holy Father in granting these spiritual favours, laid it down as an obligation that Co-operators should never omit their daily Our Father, Hail Mary and invocation to St. Francis of Sales.

During Lent.

1. On Ash Wednesday and on the 4th. Sunday of Lent an Indulgence of fifteen years and fifteen quarantines.
2. On Palm Sunday an indulgence of twenty-five years and twenty-five quarantines.
3. On Maundy Thursday, by approaching the Sacraments a plenary indulgence.
4. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday an indulgence of thirty years and thirty quarantines.
5. On all the other days of Lent ten years and ten quarantines. (See Page 32, of Constitutions. foot-note).





Colombia.

Five weeks at the Leper Colony of Contratacion.

(Letter from E. Rabagliati to the Very Rev. Don Rua (I).

Contratacion, July 22, 1906.

Very Rev. Father,

With the administration of Confirmation today, my Mission in this Lazaretto is ended for this year; and tomorrow I shall set off for Bogotà, after a stay of thirty-two days.

These four or five weeks have been truly *well filled*. The first week I spent in clothing anew this large family; from Bogotà I had brought with me ten mules laden with stuff bought with the money given to me by the Government. On my arrival I was confronted with an unexpected difficulty; a month earlier, His Lordship the Bishop of Socorro had telegraphed to me the exact number of invalids, and I had made provision for the number mentioned; but I found *one hundred and three* more, all persons who had come of their own accord or who had been sent here during the last month, and unfortunately these were the most in want. The situation was an awkward one. However, we set about cutting the cloth, and by giving less to some we managed to supply all the urgent cases. Thank God all were satisfied and full of gratitude to the provident and generous President of the Republic, General Raphael Reyes, who in the midst of a thousand preoccupations takes a constant and serious interest in these his

compatriots collected in the lazzarettos and sees that they no longer lack the necessaries of life.

In fact, for more than a year, life in these lazzarettos is quite bearable; hunger has disappeared since the amount fixed by law for each leper is paid regularly every week. Two years ago the daily payment for each of the sick was *two pesos*; then it was increased to *five*; later on to *ten*; now for several months it has reached *fifteen*. I know positively that His Excellency Signor Reye's wish was to give *twenty pesos* daily (equivalent to a franc of our money) to each leper and he had already sent the order to the Treasury Minister; but afterwards it seemed better to try with *fifteen pesos* and it is found that this sum is sufficient, at least for food, as other means have been taken to provide clothing, medical assistance, and medicines, as has been done for the last year. How changed is each lazaretto in these latter days; a hearty *Deo gratias*, since even the Salesians and the Sisters in charge of these lepers, seeing them so happy and contented, are thereby encouraged in the accomplishment of their difficult Mission.

During the last three months at least *forty thousand francs*, £ 1600 have been spent in providing clothing for the lepers of Agua de Dios and Contratacion, all being supplied by the Government, with great munificence, the whole Nation applauding this expenditure, without a single dissentient voice.

Another improvement has been made in these lazzarettos; never has it been possible to induce a healthy doctor to live with the lepers: all efforts in this direction have failed. Imagine, therefore, what a lazaretto with several hundred sick without a doctor must be like! For this reason many lepers showed themselves unwilling to enter one; because the absence of a doctor presupposed the want of remedies or of experience in applying them. For this reason, I repeat, scarcely any entered the Lazaretto willingly, but all were enclosed there almost by force, which often proved a serious drawback. But now at *Agua de Dios* there are two well-paid doctors, besides three young practitioners; these latter are themselves lepers.

Contratacion too, will soon have its doctor, already officially appointed; his absence at

(1) To the official account of the life of the lepers *Agua de Dios* (see last month's issue) we subjoin this letter from Fr. Rabagliati, in which he speaks of his last visit to the Lazaretto of *Contratacion*.

all. The Communion, during the eight days the mission lasted, exceeded *two thousand*, because, as you know, besides the 500 lepers there are a large number of persons in health who accompany the diseased, and many others came from the surrounding country and the neighbouring villages.

The fourth week was given up to the *Forty Hours*, which owing to the novelty were kept with special devotion. During all these years this is only the second time the *Forty Hours* have been held in this Lazaretto. Almost all the sick of their own accord approached the Sacraments again, being so well prepared by the preceding Mission.

The fifth and last week was devoted to the Sacrament of Confirmation which was conferred on all who had not as yet received it; and there being some free time left we turned once more to the lottery and the gramophone as in the second week for a couple of hours daily, in which these people find the greatest amusement; but I must add that greater than all was the satisfaction of your correspondent in seeing the enjoyment of the people.

Today, the last of my sojourn here, was set apart for the First Communion of the boys and girls and the Feast of St. Aloysius their Patron. Tomorrow I shall start for Bogotà, where I hope to arrive in seven days if the roads are good and if the mules do their duty as they should after thirty-two days of absolute rest.

Pardon me the disjointed form of this report, thrown together in haste, from lack of time, being anxious to start tomorrow at any cost for urgent reasons. Bless the four Salesians attached to this lazaretto, the six Daughters of Mary Help of Christians who nurse the sick in the hospital, and all these lepers who are also your children and lastly I would ask a special blessing and a daily remembrance for

Your affectionate son in J. C.
EVASIVS RABAGLIATI
Salesian missionary.

Matto Grosso

At the Colony of the S. Heart.

Very Rev. Don Rua,

R knowing how pleased you are to receive news from our Mission, I am glad to have collected some interesting details to send you.

You will already, I think, have received from our zealous Provincial Fr. Malan, the report

of the last visit he paid us and which had many good results. Taking this for granted, I will speak only of that which he was unable to relate.

Fears of the fever renewed — The most serious case—Help from Heaven.

This year again, the month of St. Joseph was marked by the return of the terrible fever which had already three times decimated the Indians coming from the *Rio das Mortes*. It seemed as if the previous heart-rending scenes would be repeated and I greatly feared they would desert the Colony. I was perpetually being called to their huts; there was a constant demand for remedies, but above all I was continually being asked: "*Father, shall I die?*" Much perplexed I went to visit them, and gave some medicines, but to the enquiry whether they would or would not die, I knew not what to answer. However, putting my trust in Divine Providence I assured them they would not die. Hope revived in the poor creatures; but when any one grew worse, I found myself in difficulties.

I think I have elsewhere remarked that their native priests or Medicine men, when they say that one will die *on such a day, at such an hour*, if he does not die they suffocate him; and when they say he will recover, if he dies they ascribe it to the fault of the dead person, saying he has offended *Bope* (the evil spirit) eating some forbidden food, and thus they are always right. But I could not decide in this way. Now remark how Divine Providence arranged matters. Their chief priests and fifteen men had gone hunting for a fortnight. During this time a relative of one of these native priests a girl about eighteen years old, the wife of a young Indian of promising dispositions, was taken dangerously ill. I saw her growing worse and was much troubled; one evening a boy came to ask me to take some medicine to the invalid. Having finished my meal I took some remedies with me and went. Entering the enclosure I was dismayed to hear doleful cries issuing from the hut. I hastened on, fearing she had died without receiving Baptism, and on entering I saw her lying stretched out, already painted with *uruon* as is their custom with the dying; the relatives and friends were wailing and clapping their hands like mad people, whilst one of them, with her hands full of scarlet colour, went on painting the half-dead body. I scolded them for bedaubing her thus, but they replied that they must do it, as she was dying. Then I knelt down beside the woman; I called her several times but she showed no sign of consciousness; the breathing was difficult, the pulse feeble, the hands

present is due to the want of a suitable house.

This reform alone has already produced notable results ; it has since been necessary to refuse many lepers at the lazarettoes from want of room, and this by a decree of the Government, which has already arranged for the building of new houses at *Agua de Dios*; while it seems to have been decided that the Lazaretto of *Contratacion* should be transferred to a more convenient site. The spot chosen for this purpose by a Commission of medical men and civil engineers, is called *Cepitá*, on the right bank of the river Jordan, sixteen leagues from here ; it is a veritable little paradise for these poor people and many of them, who know the place, impatiently await the notice for moving there. But of this I will write later, as soon as I have a definite answer from His Excellency General Reyes who wishes to discuss personally this important point, and who has reserved to himself the right of selecting the site when he has in his hands the written report of the Commission. (1).

But I have wandered from my subject and must return.

The second week was spent in *amusements*, at least two hours daily. Towards four o'clock in the afternoon there was a special peal of the bell, and all the sick assembled before the Chaplain's house, the men with chairs, the women with little mats (the same they use in church for kneeling and sitting, benches not being in use here) each one taking the place that suited him. When all were assembled the entertainment began. In a bag I placed 500 numbers from 1 to 500; in a pocket-book were written the names of the 500 sick with one of the numbers against each; lots were cast and the winning number, proclaimed aloud, entitled the winner to one of the prizes exposed to public view.

These were handkerchiefs, stockings, hats,

(1) In a subsequent letter Fr. Rabagliati writes that having safely reached Bogotá he was immediately invited to the palace of the President, who received him holding in his hands the decree of removal. The Bishop of Socorro and the Governor of that Department had already been sent to *Cepitá* charged by the Government with the expropriation of sixty or seventy houses in the village ; so that in December or January (which in Colombia are the finest summer months) it may be possible to move the Lazaretto of *Contratacion*.

combs, slippers, trousers new and second hand, waistcoats, shirts etc. There were also given away several blankets, and waterproofs, and these were the prizes most sought after. In default of such objects, money prizes of not less than a franc were given. The distribution was varied by musical selections and songs from the *gramophone*, which I never forget to take with me to the lazaretto. In this way two hours were spent each day, fifty or sixty winning prizes, so that in a week the name of each one was drawn



Orphans received in the the Salesian House at Santiago after the Earthquake of Valparaiso. (Chili).

from the bag and all received prizes to the immense delight of this *community* of ours.

The third week was devoted to the Mission which was most consoling in its results. Every morning at seven, in the evening at six (the hours fixed for the sermons), at twelve o'clock for the catechism given in three divisions (boys, girls and adults) the church was full as I had never seen it in past years. The enthusiasm went on increasing till the end of the Mission, which Our Lord blessed in a particular manner. The newly arrived were the most eager listeners to the Word of God, for on account of their state, they had not entered a Church for many years. Of these I believe not one missed going to his duties, and amongst the first was an emigrant who came here of his own accord two months ago, as soon as he had contracted the disease.

The hardest work was that of the three confessors, who laboured day and night to satisfy

and feet already growing cold. In haste I poured the Baptismal water on her head, expecting to see her expire. My mind was full of the troubles this death would cause. I had already sent two youths in search of the husband and I said to myself: "When he arrives, perhaps he will find her already buried..... Then he will leave the Mission to roam again in the forest and with him will go his father and brothers." In fine I foresaw an extensive emigration.....

What was to be done? The Novena to St. Joseph was going on; I recommended her very earnestly to our glorious Patron, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to Mary, Help of Christians and then, being unable to stay longer, I encouraged the by-standers and retired. I said to myself: "If I obtain such a grace as this, I must not fail to publish it in the *Bulletin*!" "Well, to cut the matter short I must tell you that from that time the dying woman improved little by little, and now she is in perfect health. When the husband arrived, she was out of danger and this gave me an opportunity of proclaiming to all the goodness of the *Great Father* Almighty God whose Providence kept us from having other cases in which there was danger of death.

The first Communions — The Month of May.

As I have already told you, we were preparing several to make their First Communion at Christmas, but for various reasons this touching ceremony had to be postponed. Eventually, Palm Sunday was chosen when the Provincial would be making his visit. It was on this day too, that our Indian boys gave their first concert of instrumental music, for up to the present there had been no inauguration of the band. It would be of little use to describe the pious excitement and the joy of the first Communicants, but as a proof of their good dispositions they asked on the Saturday following to go to Confession, so as to receive Holy Communion again; this they have continued to do, not only with regularity, but with much piety, recollection and apparently a full knowledge of the act they were performing.

Thanks to the edifying piety flourishing amongst the boys and girls, I had arranged to celebrate with more solemnity the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, preparing others for their First Communion. We began therefore the Month of Mary, gathering the children together to recite the Rosary. That which induced many of them to celebrate it with greater devotion was a beautiful image of Mary Help of Christians, brought by our Provincial, which

we placed on a small altar in the poor thatched Chapel. On the first two or three days I placed several bouquets of flowers before it. But, on the Sunday, I naturally spoke of Our Lady and related the example given by St Alphonsus in his *Glories of Mary*, of that shepherdess, who having during the whole month made garlands of wild flowers to adorn a statue of the Queen of Heaven, was rewarded by beholding at her bedside when dying, the same Holy Virgin, surrounded by a choir of maidens, wearing on her head the last wreath of flowers. "You also," I said, "must do the same.... bring many flowers, give them to the great Mother Mary, and she will be well pleased with her children!" This was enough. After Mass our little friends hastened at once in search of flowers and placed a large bunch at the foot of the little altar. I praised them for this manifestation of their good will, and they, much pleased, never allowed a single day to pass without adorning the altar of Mary Help of Christians with a splendid variety of flowers.

As a reward for the fervour of the little Indians I was hoping to receive some special grace from Our Lady and therefore was anxiously awaiting the 24th May, when I received from Cuyabá a telegram which, if it involved the postponement of our Feast, was nevertheless a token of Our Lady's goodness

The Madonna's present — The third Colony.

At about eighty miles from our Colony in the direction of Cuyabá, is situated the large farming establishment with houses, oxen, horses, cows, mules, etc. of our great friend and benefactor Dr. Santos which some time ago had been offered for sale. Our Provincial would gladly have bought it for the sake of these Indians, if he had possessed £2,400. No purchaser had, as yet, come forward, and the owner, having fallen sick, resolved to sell it at any price to the Mission, not only to save trouble to his family, but also for the sake of helping forward our work of civilisation. So Fr. Malan, on May 15th, the first day of the Novena of Mary, Help of Christians, was able to come to an agreement. The telegram, meanwhile, ordered me to go and take possession of this third Mission Centre. Poor Dr. Santos died three days later. May he rest in peace! May he receive from God the reward of his charity!

Well, the document, as I have said, was signed on the first day of the Novena of Mary Help of Christians, and the day of the Feast, May 24th, I was able to celebrate the first Mass in the new centre where we can assemble the families of the

better trained Indians, to accustom them, by degrees, to ordinary civilized life.

When I get back to the Colonye. I shall fix the day for the celebration of the Feast and for the First Communions.

Whilst we rejoice in the fruit of our labours and the hopes which the children give us for the future, we are, nevertheless, saddened by the condition of the adults, because, although

meaning of this strange proceeding. Whirling this violently they wander through the fields to draw away the soul of the dead whose bones they are cleaning, but woe to the women or children who should behold the *aigge*; they would die at once!... Therefore the women, the boys and girls hide themselves and cover their eyes that they may not see... But on reaching the age of fifteen or sixteen, the youths have to go



The Bishop of Ancud and other personages visit the orphans received in the Salesian House at Santiago after the disaster of Valparaiso. (Chili).

they do not oppose our teaching, they still continue the observance of their savage customs and their diabolical superstitions.

A strange ceremony—Four newly initiated to the sight of the “aigge.”

Recently the Indians repeated their gruesome ceremonies over the bones of several who died in March of last year; usually, these functions, which always last several days, are followed by something more cheerful. I have already made mention in the *Bulletin* of that oval piece of painted wood which, fastened with a string to a small stick, is whirled round over the head producing a loud whizzing noise. It was some time before we discovered the

through a special ceremony to be initiated in the sight of the *aigge* and at the same time to turn aside all danger from them.

This time there were four, and amongst them *Romano*, one of those who had made his First Communion and went to Confession every Saturday. As he is living with us as a boarder and working as a carpenter, his father came to call him, saying he must take him to see the *aigge*. I refused, saying his son must no more take part in such follies..... But the good man, after taking a turn or two, came back secretly and carried off the boy, who was thoroughly ashamed of being obliged to take part to in such a function. Perceiving what had happened I went at once to the *aldea* where I found the four boys

stripped and being covered with a reddish paint. I showed my displeasure at their painting these boys who had already received Baptism... but the *Bari* and the Captains excused themselves saying it was necessary to do so, that besides it would be the last time and that they should be washed very soon. Even the old men were all painted in divers ways, two of them were covered with mud from head to foot; and others were clothed with leaves of trees and of palms. The four boys remained in the *baito* (the large hut where ceremonies are held) seated in a semi-circle with bows and arrows in their hands. The adults went off to a distance of 200 yards, then they went back in procession, some stamping their feet, others walking like four-footed beasts, others whirling the *aigge* and all howling together in imitation of the cries of various animals. When they had arrived within a hundred yards of the *baito*, the four boys came forth with other Indians. The two parties having met, all began to throw mud over the four initiated, screaming all the while covering them with mud from head to foot. Those poor boys were a horrible sight; even their mouths were full of mud! Then they showed them four *aigge* which the boys see for the first time. They took them in their hands and began to whirl them round... The function ended, I gave the poor boys a piece of soap and sent them away to wash....

You see from this how inveterate are their old religious prejudices and what we have yet to contend with. But we live in hopes. I beg you to recommend this mission to the charity and prayers of our Co-operators and remain

Your obedient son in J. C.

JOHN BALZOLA
Salesian Missionary.


Northern Patagonia

Along the banks of the Rio Negro.

(Letter from Fr. Maranzana
to His Lordship Mgr. Cagliero.)

Viedma (Patagonia.)

My Lord,

 I have just returned from a short Mission which I gave on the banks of the Rio Negro, accompanied by the Catechist Joseph Caranta, and I think a short account may please Your Lordship.

Our expedition lasted about four weeks. As this is the first time this difficult and delicate undertaking has been confided to me, I trust Your Lordship will accord me your kindly sympathy, if the fruits are not as abundant as you might desire. Nevertheless in the various localities I visited, I baptised thirty-one and confirmed fifty-six, I blessed four marriages and heard more than seventy confessions, followed by the same number of Communions, of which seven were First Communions.

On Easter Tuesday we left the House of Pringles in our little waggon. After travelling some thirty miles, we arrived at a small farm-settlement and there we began the exercise of our Ministry. We found several huts of straw and mud, situated on the slopes of the hills which enclose the valley. Ever since the terrible inundation of 1899, which made itself memorable by its wholesale destruction, the settlers have wisely retired from the river banks and build their huts higher up. The greater number are *negroes*, the descendants of the forty negroes imported from Africa at the beginning of the last century. One of them named *Crespo* died only a short time ago, at the age of one hundred and fifteen years; he was one of the heroic defenders of the Fort of Patagones in 1827. His old widow received us very kindly and invited us to spend four days in her house to give those in the neighbourhood an opportunity of profiting by the missionary's visit.

It is wonderful to see how the faith is kept amongst these poor families. Entering one of the huts open to the four winds, a young woman, living alone with two tiny children, at once offered us according to the custom of the country some mate to drink, and then said:

"Father, last year, at this time, I was lying dangerously ill on that bed, with my two little children"—pointing them out.

"I begged Our Lady Help of Christians to obtain my cure, promising to have two Masses said. My prayer was heard and now I fulfil my promise." During my stay I celebrated the two Masses according to her intention.

Here also several infants were baptised and confirmation was administered to many persons. A good number of people confessed and communicated and attended the recitation of the Rosary and the explanation of the Catechism.

In the *Isla Catalana*, a small island of the Rio Negro, three children, belonging to families of immigrants were regenerated in the waters of Baptism. I blessed the marriage of the proprietor of the island and gave Holy Communion for the first time to two girls about eighteen years old. A little further on several scattered

families joyfully hastened to the Holy Sacrifice and made their Easter duties.

At the Colonies of Conesa, Frias, Cubanea and St. Francis Xavier.

Towards nightfall we reached *Conesa* and stayed at the house of two worthy Genoese, who prided themselves on having already given hospitality on several occasions to the Missionaries of Don Bosco. Through them we learned that about six miles further on we should find three children not yet baptized, children of another Italian family. We followed the river, which was a good deal above its level at the time, until we perceived the roof of a hut hidden amongst the bushes. Two active young men well accustomed to the oar, came to meet us on the opposite bank. The father, seeing a priest enter his house, made up his mind to have his three little ones baptized.

Before undertaking the long journey down the south bank of the great river, it was only reasonable that we should make a short stay at our House of *Conesa*. With our brethren and the pupils we kept there the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. Thirtyfive youths, boarders or externs are being educated in the school of St. Laurence, and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians have fifty pupils.

During the second period of our Mission we traversed more than forty leagues in a fortnight, administering the Sacraments to many families knowns to your Lordship.

At the settlement called *Frias* special mention should be made of the *Mayor* Linares, whom Your Lordship will remember as one of the chief aides-de-camp of General Roca in the conquest of the desert. He placed his little house at the disposal of the Missionary and was his guide in seeking out some of the Indians to be instructed and baptized in several *ranchos* hidden by the dense foliage.

Night having overtaken us about midway we missed the high road. But providentially we soon perceived a light on the great plain; it was the abode of the one who holds the office of Justice of the Peace in these wild places. We spent the night in his house and in the morning he himself presented us two little Indians to be baptized and confirmed.

How many there are who still preserve a lively recollection of the first Missionaries of the Rio Negro: of Mgr Fagnano, of Your Lordship and especially of Fr. Dominic Milanese. Many still recollects how well he could catechize the Patagonian natives in their own Araucanian language.

In the stations of Cubanea and St Francis

Xavier we gave ample oportunities for the baptism of the children of those families who, through carelessness or poverty had not taken them to the parish church at *Pringles* or *Viedma*.

I must not omit to mention the piety with which the principal families of these two places assisted at Holy Mass and approached the Sacraments; I allude to those whom you know as Salesian Co-operators and who were in close relations with our Missionaries and especially with your Lordship.

From all, even the poorest, I received the most cordial hospitality. By the 24th May we had reached the right bank of the long and extensive lagoon of Jungal, the limpid waters of which were whitened by large flocks of water-birds.

Afar off *Viedma* and *Patagones* were to be seen, but we were still at a distance of three leagues in a somewhat circular course, and were now, after some days travel, within ten miles of our starting place, *Viedma*. But we were not quite home, for the swampy desert gave us a good deal of trouble and we were eight hours going these few miles. I conclude this brief report, humbly saluting your Lordship and begging a blessing for myself and those who helped to make the Mission successful.

Your Lordship's devoted son
BERNARD MARANZANA,
Salesian Priest.



TO THE READER

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

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

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

International Postal Orders to be made payable at the P. O. Turin — **Cheques** on the National, or other Banks, Turin. — **Paper Currency** (Bank-notes, Dollars, etc.) can be cashed at Turin without loss or discount. — **Letters** containing money or objects of value should be registered.

To all Co-operators and Readers.

In their present case of urgent necessity, the Salesian Fathers at Battersea, London, make an earnest

Appeal for Aid

to all readers and Co-operators.

Just before Christmas the elementary schools of the parish served by the Salesians sustained heavy loss from a

Disastrous Fire

which destroyed the Girls' and Infants' Departments,

No work is more in keeping with the object and aim of the Co-operators, than the preservation of the Catholic Faith, and in fact never was it more important to secure Catholic Education for the children than in the present crisis. In order to save the Faith for the children who attend the schools which have been destroyed, the Salesians are striving to replace the buildings as speedily as possible, and in this work they confidently appeal for aid to readers and Co-operators.

The Very Rev. Fr. Provincial
Salesian School,
Surrey House, Surrey Lane
Battersea, London.



Battersea. London.

On January 7th the second term of the school year commenced at the Salesian Schools. During the Christmas Vacation terminal reports were posted to the parents and guardians of the students, so that they may have an idea how their boys were engaged during the last term and with what results. Parents can at any time obtain information concerning those in whom they are interested, by a letter to either the Principal of the School, or to the Prefect of Studies, from whom also any particulars of terms and examinations may be had.

We gave a brief review of the term's work in last month's issue. That term was in one way a record term, for the number of boys was the highest yet attained, coming very nearly to a hundred and fifty. It was this increase in the size of the classes that called for extensions in the way of class-room accommodation, and the cost of meeting this need we have also put before the Co-operators in preceding issues.

Nearly all the boys who lived within reasonable distance spent their Christmas holidays at home; those however who were prevented from doing so, had little reason to regret it, as a whole series of Christmas entertainments had been previously arranged for the general diversion. At the time of writing however details of the Christmas doings are not yet forth coming.

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From another page or insertion in this issue readers will become acquainted with the disastrous loss, which has befallen another depart-

ment of the work carried on by the Salesians at Battersea. Apart from the scholastic matters of which we spoke above, the Salesians serve the large parish church of the Sacred Heart, and direct the schools attached to it for the catholic children of the parish. These schools had been built by the Salesians and accommodated over five hundred children. On the morning of December 13th last, two of the Departments—the Girls' and Infants'—were destroyed by fire, so that some three hundred and eighty catholic children were without school accommodation. There is no need for us to describe the dismay of the children as they arrived for the morning's work and found their school in ruins. At great inconvenience temporary accommodation has had to be found for them, while the reconstruction of the buildings is going on. From the insertion readers will see what a heavy load of debt it is likely to add to the already overburdened shoulders, and in fact will do so, if some generous hands do not speedily assist. The loss is felt the keener from the fact that extensive improvements had of late been carried out at a cost of £800 or £900, and these will now be to little or no purpose.

We earnestly recommend this crying need to the generosity of the Co-operators and all readers, and hope to announce in forthcoming issues that the work has been successfully carried through. Donations may be addressed to the Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, or to the Rev. W. J. Kelly, S. C. (Surrey House, Surrey Lane, Battersea, London).

The New Salesian Church, Wandsworth, London.

This newly opened church is still undergoing its process of completion in the shape of additions to its decorative scheme, which was slightly interrupted at the time of opening. Some of the articles mentioned in former notices have now been supplied, but others are still awaiting donations. The Rector is looking forward to speedy assistance in this direction, and wishes us to announce that to all donors of a guinea or upwards he will forward a splendid souvenir of the new church, which contains five large, highly finished photographs, giving excellent views of the interior and altars.

Rev. Fr. T. Giltinan, S. C. and Rev. Fr. V. Campana, S. C. gave the advent sermons in the new church, and the congregation heartily responded to the efforts of the Rector in making the opening weeks a period of special commemoration.

Turin. The Artizan's prize day.

The group of lads who surrounded Don Bosco in his lowly workshops some fifty years ago, could hardly have dreamt that their number and humble apartment would develop into the extensive buildings and complex organisation which their workshops now present. Indeed the development of their section has seldom been more in evidence than at present, when their exhibits have deservedly won high awards and commendation at various exhibitions.

On the evening of Nov. 11th last, nearly 500 boys, who constitute one part of the little world which the Oratory at Turin presents, had gathered in their theatre-hall for the distribution of prizes. The Royal Procurator, the Mayor, and the Chamber of Commerce sent representatives, and these, together with a large number of distinguished Co-operators, presided at the distribution.

One of the priests of the House opened the proceedings by a very appropriate address, dealing briefly with the importance of religious guidance in the development of the christian democracy, and the realisation of this in the popular associations, which His Holiness Pius X.

is striving to encourage and foster in every way. The distribution was followed by a résumé from the Superior of the House. About thirty of the young men were granted the diploma of proficiency in their trade, and have already secured good places in various firms, besides having a useful sum of money—over twenty pounds in some cases—to help themselves to. This sum is the result of a special saving system, by which certain amounts are put aside in each boy's name and these go on accumulating till he takes up a position of his own.

The mayor's representative afterwards congratulated the boys in the name of the city and spoke in very appreciative terms of Don Bosco's work. The Very Rev. Don Rua, Our Superior General, thanked the guests of the evening, and urged the boys to further effort towards a successful career.

A message from Colombia.

The Government of Colombia (South America) has been a good many years awakening to the fact, that the presence of an unusual proportion of lepers among their rural population would, in time, constitute a grave danger to the welfare of the state. And it is doubtful whether this awakening would have yet arrived, had it not been for the persistent endeavours of the missionaries, and particularly the Salesian missionaries, to bring the miserable plight of these unfortunate beings before the minds of the people at large, and the ministers of the Republic in particular.

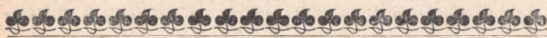
Theirs has been a peculiarly arduous, self-sacrificing, and in many ways a thankless, discouraging task. On the one hand were the miseries of the lepers, and on the other the indifference of the nation, and even the hostility of part of the governing body for bringing the true state of the case to light. It needed a wholesale system of alms-collecting to partly alleviate the one, and steady warning, and repeated representation of the dire results, to overcome the other. The outlook now however is distinctly brighter, and from what we have said in the previous and the present issue, it will be seen that great strides have been made towards

checking the ravages of the disease, and treating the case of the leper from a christian as well as a hygienic standpoint.

No one has been more zealous and long-suffering in this uphill fight for the leper cause than the Salesian Missionary Father Evasius Rabagliati. Often enough indeed he has had reason to be discouraged, and we had almost said, to despair, and if better days have now set in, the change is in a very great measure due to his unwearied labours and skilful management of affairs. The alleviation of the lot of his protégés is to him a sufficient reward for all this labour, but the Government has lately recognised his services by making him the official Inspector of the Colombian lazarettos. The President, Genral Reyes, has long been won over to the cause of the lepers, and with his support a period of restoration or even of regeneration is looked forward to.

After the Chilean disaster.

Tranquillity again prevails over the area lately disturbed by nature's occasionally destructive forces. As far as our school at Santiago in Chile is concerned things seem to be again normal, and the Bishop of Ancud with the Argentine minister found the school of arts and trades in full working order when they visited it a short time ago. The bishop said that it was a special pleasure to him to know that the school, of which he himself had laid the foundation-stone, had escaped the general ruin, and through its minister M. Amadon, he paid a tribute of gratitude to the sister state of Argentine, which had come forward so generously to help its neighbour in distress. The school band played the national airs of both states during the minister's visitation of the school, which has given a home to many boys left destitute by the earthquake.



Among the Books.

The Irish Catholic Truth Society have lately published the following penny booklets, which we recommend to our readers:
Lessons on the Catechism. A short summary

- of Christian Doctrine for the use of schools. By the Right Rev. Monsignor Molloy, D. D.
2. The Practical Application of Christianity to the Lives of the Irish People of to-day, By the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross.
 3. Tillage By Most. Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross.
 4. The Little School Mistress and Annie Maggie by J. Rill.
 5. His Victims and Mr. Dean's Daughter.
 6. The Catholic Truth Annual. Sixpence.
- All the above are published at:

27, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.

The following are among the recent issues of the *Catholic Truth Society*, 69, Southwark Bridge Road, S. E.

1. The following penny booklets:
 - Princess Louise de Condé (1757-1824).
 - Mother Margaret Mostyn (1625-1679).
 - Ven. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows (1838-1862).
 - Father Walter Colman, O. F. M. Parts I and II, by Father Thaddeus, O. F. M.
 - Venerable John Boste (1544-1594) by John B. Wainwright.
 - The Catholic's library of tales, No. 47. by Sophie Maudc.
 - More Chinese Tales by Alice Dease.
 - St Peter in the New Testament and in the Fathers. By the Rev. R. H. Benson, M. A.
2. Our Faith, by Cecil Lylburn. Threepence; Cloth, Sixpence.
3. In the hour of death by Martin Peaks. Twopence.
4. The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. One Penny.
5. The first eight general councils and papal infallibility. By Dom John Chapman, O. S. B. Sixpence net.
6. Fortifying the layman, by Earnest R. Hall, S. J. Sixpence net.
7. The way of Truth. By the Rev. P. M. Northcote, O. S. M. Sixpence net. Cloth. One shilling.
8. My Brother's keeper, by M. F. Quinlan. One shilling.
9. Conference Papers. In a shilling volume, or separate papers, a penny each.





DEVOTION TO OUR LADY Help of Christians

We are persuaded, that no aid but that of Heaven can avail us in the sorrowful vicissitudes of our day, and that especially through the intercession of Her who in every age has proved Herself the Help of Christians.

PIUS PP. X.

OUR Holy Founder Don Bosco, in his little work on the origin and growth of the Devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, shows from many passages of the Old Testament how this protecting influence of the mother of God was clearly foreshadowed. Passing then to the New Testament he says:

The Evangelist St. Luke, in the beginning of his Gospel, relates that the Angel Gabriel, being sent into the world to announce to the Blessed Virgin the news of her approaching dignity, salutes her with the words: *Ave, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus*. Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women. The archangel in saluting Mary calls her *full of grace*; she must then possess it in its fulness. St. Augustine commenting on the archangel's words, salutes Our Lady thus; Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; present in thy heart, in thy womb, and with thee in thy powerful protection; *tecum in corde, tecum in ventre, tecum in auxilio*: (August. in Serm. de nat. B. M.)

St. Thomas Aquinas dwelling on the words *Gratia plena* says that Our Lady ought indeed to have the fullness of grace, and he reasons it thus: The nearer a being is to God the greater is the degree of participation in the grace of God. In the heavenly courts those angels who are nearest to the throne of glory are richer and more favoured than the others. Therefore Our Blessed Lady, nearer than all to Jesus Christ who was born of her as man, must be above every other being enriched with abundance of grace.

St. Jerome asserts that the Angel Gabriel very suitably employed the term *full of grace*, since that which the angels possess only in

part was given to Mary in all its profusion. Therefore Cardinal Hugo counsels us: Hasten to Mary who possesses the abundance of heavenly gifts, the fulness of grace, for she has it to make us partakers of her bounty.

* * *

To those Co-operators, who are following the general practice of the members, in making the 24th of every month a day of special devotion to Our Lady Help of Christians, it is recommended, that besides their private intentions they should pray particularly for the welfare of the association and its interests during the year that has now begun.

From the Annals of the Sanctuary.

1896. By a rescript of December 17th 1896 the Supreme Pontiff Leo XIII. granted to the members of the Archconfraternity of Mary Help of Christians an indulgence of 300 days to be gained once a day by the recital of the invocation: **Mary Help of Christians, pray for us,**

We must remember however that the reigning Pontiff (by a rescript of Mary 8th 1906) granted to all the Co-operators the privilege of gaining this indulgence, as often as they should devoutly recite the same invocation.

GRACES and FAVOURS

Ballybrophy (Ireland). — Having been troubled for some time with lung disease which threatened to become very serious, I recommended my need to Our Lady Help of Christians and am thankful to say that all danger has now passed. I would request publication of the favour.

ANON.

East Invercargill (New Zealand).—I wish to return public thanks for a favour obtained through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians. Please say a Mass in thanksgiving for which I enclose an offering.

Nov. 30th, 1906.

W. C.

Georgetown (British Guiana). — By the English mail leaving for Southampton tomorrow I am forwarding you an offering for four Masses at the Altar of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving for temporal favours received through her intercession. Please publish in the *Salesian Bulletin*.

Dec. 7th, 1906.

B. de F.

County Galway (Ireland).—I enclose an offering for a Mass in honour of Mary Help of Christians for favours received through her powerful intercession.

December 8th, 1906.

M. B.

Portsmouth (England).—I enclose an offering for the Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians in thanksgiving and gratitude for a temporal favour obtained after novena and promise of publication.

Dec., 1906.

M. H.

Roscrea (Ireland).—I return most sincere thanks to Our Lady Help of Christians for a very special favour obtained through her intercession, and enclose a small offering.

Dec. 17th, 1906.

H. M. A.

Berbice (British Guiana).—Kindly accept enclosed offering for Masses in thanksgiving for a favour received which please publish in the *Salesian Bulletin*.

July 1906.

A GRATEFUL CLIENT.

Lima (Peru).—I wish to return thanks for several favours bestowed through the generous hands of Mary Help of Christians. Last year I was brought to death's door by a grave illness, but a novena to Our Lady restored my health. Since then two of my children were very dangerously ill with pulmonitis, but after recommendation to Our Lady's intercession they were restored to health. I now fulfil my promise of publishing the favour.

October, 1906.

Y. C.

Bombay (India).—A friend of mine was very ill and taken into Hospital. His condition was critical and an operation was unavoidable. I showed the *Bulletin* to his brother and suggested an offering and publication similar to the favours recorded in it; The result was a successful operation and discharge of the sick man by the end of the month. The enclosed is for a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of Mary Help of Christians. May she be more widely known and more devoutly served.

December 7th, 1906.

R. E. M. IGNATIO.

Mompos (Colombia).—A month ago my child was taken suddenly ill, and we were living in a country place, far from medical help. As the danger became more and more grave, my fears and anxiety increased, and seeing no possibility of human aid I commenced a novena, promising publication, a mass in thanksgiving and an offering to the Salesian Missions. I then continued my sorrowful attendance at the bedside; what was my surprise; when an hour or two afterwards, a doctor from a town some miles off came riding by. I immediately called for his assistance and by his aid the malady began to abate, and the evening saw a turn for the better in the little patient. These hopeful signs were followed by a complete recovery.

Oct. 1906.

F. M.

Fogliizzo (Italy).—While in the seminary in India I felt an interior call to the religious state, and this thought continued for two years and more; but being at a loss as to the ways and means of realizing my heart's desire, I had recourse to the powerful intercession of Mary Help of Christians, promising her, at the same time that I would publish the favour in the *Salesian Bulletin* if granted. I commenced a novena in her honour and it was scarcely ended, when all the difficulties disappeared like a mist before the rising sun, and I finally obtained the object of my desire.

November 29th, 1906.

L. A. S.

Fairview (Ireland).—I enclose a small donation in thanksgiving for a petition granted through Our Lady's intercession.

November, 1906.

A Client of Mary.

The Story of the Oratory or Don Bosco's Opening Apostolate



CHAPTER LVI (Cont.)

If these and other dispositions of Divine Providence were sore trials to Don Bosco, they served on the other hand to make his work better known and appreciated, and many requests were made to him to accept more boys. But how was it possible to do this; for on one side our premises were closed in and we could make no extensions on the other. Providence, however, at last took our case in hand.

To the right of the older portion of the present Oratory there was a large building used as a silk factory. Don Bosco had previously made several offers for the purchase of the place, chiefly because the number of people continually coming and going was for many reasons a source of disturbance; but there seemed no hope of ever acquiring it: when quite unexpectedly the owner himself came forward and inquired if Don Bosco was still desirous to purchase. Don Bosco replied that he was, but that he had then no means of doing so. "Oh", said the good Signor Defilippi, "that need make no difference, I am in no hurry for the money."

The contract was accordingly signed and in that same year the building was occupied by a section of the boarders; there was some little distance between the two houses, which were joined at a later date, and on that account the new school was somewhat humourously known as Sicily, being separated from the continent. This addition to our premises made it possible to accept a greater number of boys and made the general working more convenient. The increase however soon made its effects felt in other quarters. It was now found that the church of St. Francis de Sales was too small to contain even the whole of one section, artisans or students. Moreover it had been decided to extend the printing department which required more room and light and extra equipment was absolutely necessary. At that time the chapel had to provide a place for the boys of the Oratory, for

those who lived in the neighbourhood and who could not now be admitted on account of want of room, and also for adults who were at some distance from a church. Having long had the idea of erecting a grand temple in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians, Don Bosco now began to look around for a place and for the means to carry out his idea. I had often heard Don Bosco say that he had already seen the Church as in a vision, and had seen the place where it was to be built, but how could it be raised with no means to pay for it. One day, in answer to a person who was dissuading him from risking too much, I heard him say: "Your reasons are familiar to me, I know them quite well, but I also know that the time demands it, that God wishes it, and wishes it from me."

In the year 1863 he set himself resolutely to make a commencement, opening proceedings to get the necessary authorization from the Government, and writing circulars and letters in various directions. He fixed on the site and had plans drawn up which revealed a vast project in honour of Our Lady, and which would provide a place for several hundreds of the faithful. The Architect Cavaliere Antonio Spezia drew up a design in accordance with the views proposed to him by Don Bosco, but it was not long before the devil thought himself of overthrowing these new projects, and some of his means are worthy of notice here.

The chief difficulties came from the municipal council. The architect to the council seemed to have made up his mind not to approve the plans, objecting greatly to the title which he said was unpopular, and inopportune.

But Don Bosco replied:

"You, sir, have not perhaps the time, amid your many occupations, to make enquiries into the origin of this title. Remember the victory won by the Italians and Spaniards against the Turks at

Lepanto; and later on the raising of the siege of Vienna."

"That may be" replied the other, "but we do not consider it suitable for the present day." On account of the proposed title the matter had to momentarily dropped. Don Bosco waited some days and then laid the whole matter afresh before the assembled councillors. No mention was made of Mary Help of Christians, but only of a new church to be built at Valdocco. The case was examined and approved. Then the question was asked:

"What will be the title of the new Church?"

"As to that I am still considering the point myself; for the present it is only a question of allowing a certain building to be put up in a specified place."

Going, later on, to thank the chief architect, the latter said:

"I little thought that Don Bosco was so tenacious of his own opinion, and felt sure that he would have agreed to change an undesirable title.

"Sir" Don Bosco answered, "seeing that the matter of the title was still a sore point, "I have not yet given any name to the church, which means that I am at liberty to give it what title shall seem best to me."

"That would be a deception." Answered the architect.

"There is not a shadow of deception," was the reply. "You were unwilling to approve of the title and you have not approved it; I wished to give it that name, and I am going to give it; thus both of us will be satisfied, as we have both had our own way."

The architect smiled and appeared satisfied although he still had some resentment. This difficulty being overcome, others began to show themselves. The design was one thing, the money was quite another. The complete plans being put before the municipal councillors, they expressed surprise at the magnificent scale of the undertaking.

"It would cost a million francs," they said, "and how can you, who have no means, think of carrying it out."

"Leave that to me," replied Don Bosco; "I do not ask you for the money, but only for the approbation." This being finally given the work was commenced. The firm of Buzzetti undertook the contract. Inquisitive people came from all quarters to see the excavations and many different views were expressed. Various queries were made and left unanswered.

"However will Don Bosco manage to carry it through?" asked one.

"He will be loaded with debts," said another. "Pius IX, will give him the money," suggested others. "He must have found a treasure," was the opinion of some, while others again foretold a case of bankruptcy.

"It is temerity, it is madness," was the grave verdict of other prudent minds. All had something to say on the point, and Don Bosco's name was in everybody's mouth. He however went on with the work, taking no notice of critics or prophets; but it may be best to add here for the instruction of some who may be disposed to condemn a seeming rashness, that Don Bosco used to say: *Before taking any enterprise in hand we first of all examine whether it will be to the greater glory of God; when we have found that it is, we may go forward with it notwithstanding apparent difficulties; and the work will succeed.*

To his own immediate followers he said, and the writer has heard him on several occasions: "The Mother of God will look after the building of her church; I shall be nothing more than an instrument in the work." And we indeed saw how everything happened exactly as he had said, and Our Lady caused help to come in from all quarters by means of the wonderful favours both spiritual and temporal with which she rewarded her devout clients.

(To be continued).



Our Co-operators are asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Butler, Bandon, a deceased member of the Association; also for Sister Mary Catherine, Convent of Mery Alnwick, England.

R. I. P.

PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Gerent, GIUSEPPE GAMBINO—Salesian Press, Turin, 1936

APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF THE SALESIAN INSTITUTE.

To all those who are kindly disposed towards poor orphans, to all those who have at heart the betterment of society by the education especially of abandoned or neglected youth, we appeal with confidence.

The Salesian Institute in Cape Town is a school of Arts and Trades, one of the four hundred and more Institutions of Don Bosco. It consists of schools of printing, cabinet-making, bookbinding, shoemaking and tailoring. Boys are accepted irrespective of creed, are trained in one of these trades, while at the same time they receive a good "book" education and are taught both vocal and instrumental music.

The houses in which the work is carried on at present are only rented and were never intended for educational purposes. So far there are seventy-two lads in the Institute, all healthy and happy, and this is all that we can at present accommodate. During the past year close on sixty applications had to be refused. This year the demands are pouring in daily, but the answer is always the same: "There is no room."

Our benefactors and all those acquainted with the work urge us to build a suitable institute to provide for about two hundred boys, where a model school of Arts and Trades may arise and the complete educational system of Don Bosco may be developed. There is every prospect of a valuable site being secured in one of the old Cemeteries in Somerset Road; so it is now necessary to start a building fund. Confident in the blessing of Divine Providence and the goodness of the cause we turn for help to both rich and poor of every denomination and nationality.

A Committee has been already formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. While we expect much from the wealthy, we are confident that the labouring classes, who have experienced many hardships in common with our boys, will not deny their mite. A small subscription every month, sixpence, a shilling or half a crown, will prove most effectual in aid of the new Institute.

We wish to promise our prayers to all those who come to our assistance and we feel certain that the Almighty will reward abundantly every one of our benefactors.

For the Salesians:

E. M. TOZZI, S.C., *Superior.*

Feb. 14th, 1905.

Salesian Institute,

49, Buitenkant Street, Cape Town.

I hereby recommend most herartily the foregoing appeal to all the well disposed throughout my own jurisdiction, and to the Superiors of the Missions who have sent, or are likely to send boys to the Salesian Institute from any part of South Africa.

✠ JOHN LEONARD,

St. Mary's, Cape Town.

Feb., 14th, 1905.

(Cablegram.)

To Superior, Salesian Institute, Cape Town. — Rome, 13th March, 1905.

Holy Father wishes development to praiseworthy work of Salesian Institute and blesses Superiors, Benefactors and Pupils.

Cardinal MERRY DEL VAL.

The Association of Salesian Co-operators

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.