The first Salesian Mission Office celebrates its 75th anniversary

The Salesian Mission Office (SMO-USA) was founded by Fr. James O’Loughlen in 1947 with the aim of supporting Salesian programmes that teach young people various trades that help them find decent work and become self-sufficient, active members of society and good Christians. SMO-USA has tirelessly dedicated its efforts to helping young people and Salesian Missions for the past 75 years. As a result of this mission, we are now a global group of caring people dedicated to improving the lives of the world’s poorest and neediest children and families.

I am pleased to announce that the 75th anniversary celebration of SMO-USA will take place this year on 22 November with the Rector Major in New York. This exciting milestone will be marked by a rejuvenation of our Salesian identity as we are blessed with the opportunity to meet again in person after two and a half years of the pandemic. We have continued to raise funds to save lives with programmes that support people in poor and disadvantaged communities around the world. We have carried out numerous mission projects abroad to support young people and light the way for families in need. But we try to maintain the meticulous balance between doing great things for the world, maintaining true Salesian identity and celebrating our spirit.

This November will be a wonderful time of joyful restructuring as we renew our partnership with our loyal, compassionate and generous donors, without whom our charitable mission would cease to exist. Their charity and kindness have enabled us to operate in the best possible way, and it is through this collaboration that we have – together – been able to help the children and families who suffer the most.

Finally, this important anniversary will be a time to recognise our devoted colleagues who have served and dedicated their lives all these many years. We will continue to journey together for the next 75 years to provide the world’s young and poor with a brighter future – today, tomorrow and in the years to come.

Fr. Augustine Baek, SDB
Director of SMO-USA
Fr. Umberto Cavaliere, SDB

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1930. Since 1956 he has worked as a missionary in Japan, he started by serving in the large orphanage in Tokyo with 300 war orphans. He now lives in the community of Yokohama.

The first cardinal of East Timor is a Salesian

On 29 May 2022, Pope Francis convoked a consistory on 27 August for the creation of 21 new cardinals. There are two Salesians on the list, one of them, Mgr. Luc Van Looy, SDB, archbishop emeritus of Ghent (Belgium), has renounced his appointment.

Msgr. Virgílio do Carmo da Silva, SDB

Archbishop of Dili (Est Timor)

• Novice master and then superior of the visitatory of East Timor and Indonesia.
• Appointed bishop of Dili in 2016 and first archbishop of East Timor in 2019.
• He will be the first cardinal of East Timor, the youngest nation in Asia with about 1.3 million inhabitants. On May 20, 2022, the country celebrated its 20 years of independence from Indonesia.

JULY SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTION

For the elderly

For the elderly members of the Salesian family and Salesian benefactors in Japan.

We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility. [Pope Francis’ prayer intention]