



A School

with a Mission Vocation

by Juan José Chiappetti

Victorica is a city located in the western zone of La Pampa province, and is the main habitation in steppe lands that look more like desert than green prairies for grazing cattle or for cultivation.

The Salesians arrived in 1896 and little by little began a missionary effort that covered an area of some 400 square kilometres. From there they extended their efforts to a further seven localities. "This is a Christian community that has given much help to the work of the missionaries, and many have gone out from here to evangelise Santa Isabel and the Salado coast", says Fr Jorge

Ledesma, the Rector of this Salesian community.

The Salesian Family here lives in a state of ongoing mission at work especially through the parish and school with youth groups and projects. But the highpoint of this mission effort has been achieved by setting up a mission school with few similar precedents around the world.

A new kind of school

In 2008, taking advantage of charismatic common effort and the fact that they

were close by one another, Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians Colleges set up a school bringing together both these branches (SDB and FMA) of the Salesian Family. One school holds the secondary while the other has the primary classes and together they make up more than 650 students, boys and girls, most of them from struggling families. The Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) and the Salesian Sisters (FMA) have come together in this endeavour after a time of discernment that began years back, resulting in a new work which is much more than the simple sum of its parts.

Going much further than their original institutes, the decision meant not only better study opportunities for those enrolled but that students, teachers and parents together have

