



A week in the Salesian Mission



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For the past eight years, each year one Salesian school benefits from a week of 'mission': a team of 15 to 20 Salesians (SDB and FMA) who come from the various places where they work and provide leadership, time for reflection and celebration involving young people and adults. The idea is to change their daily lives and provide some impetus for a pastoral approach.

A mission was once seen as a week of preaching, confessions and celebrations in a parish led by a Religious, often maybe a Capuchin or a Franciscan. In our Province, not all schools have the benefit of a religious community. The catechist has usually been replaced by a school pastoral leader, a lay person formed for the task, but often formed for a completely different role.

The adult teams running the schools are the ones who have to look to the spirit, the school climate, often without much remuneration, and they are taken up largely by matters of daily management. So to provide support, give ideas, give a boost to the adults and give the students a sense of meaning at the heart of their scholastic endeavours, the idea came about to set up 'Salesian missions'. The idea took on: many schools have sought to benefit from this much appreciated pastoral push.

A courageous kind of leadership which has borne fruit

When a school is chosen, we start by preparing the teachers and school managers. We explain what will happen: they need to accept our timetable for the week, since the school routine is going to be completely upset. We take a 'play' approach for the students: the 'missionaries' move through the classrooms or they catch up with everyone in the playground or in the gym. A main topic is

