



# Don Bosco's FATIMA Messenger

Vol. 10, Issue 4

September-October 2020



**ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**  
**PRAY FOR US**

## Table of Contents

Editorial	3
Important for Online Transactions	4
Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel	5
Turn to St. Michael the Archangel	6
Corona Virus Heroes	12
Goa's Covid Warrior	13
Corona Virus and Don Bosco	16
Narrated by the Salesian Rector Major	19
Letter of Fr D. B. Lourdasamy	20
Laugh your Blues Away	21
Salesian Prenovices at Loutolim, Goa	24
Intercession of St Dominic Savio	24

### SHRINE INFORMATION

**Covid-19 pandemic time: Online Services only.**

**Weekday Mass:** 07:30 am **Sunday Mass:** 09:00 am. IST

**Adoration:** Thursdays, 07.00 pm. IST

**Don Bosco Mass link:** Don Bosco TV or fatimashrinedbpanjim.org

#### Office Timings

Mon-Sat: 09:00 – 17:00; Email: dbshrineoffice@gmail.com

#### Cash Transactions, Donations, Information

Mobile: +91 7378442021; 0832-2221986 Ext. 276

#### Seeking Advice/ Information

Shrine Director, Fr. Loddy Pires sdb. +91 8762801749

### YOUR MONEY IS SAFE IN GOD'S HANDS – VERY SAFE WITH HIGH INTEREST!



In view of the **Golden Jubilee of the Shrine in 2020**,  
we have undertaken Renovation work, to offer you better facilities.  
Your generous contribution will be much appreciated.

You could pay in small instalments,  
according to your possibility.

God bless you for your generosity.



## From the Editor's Computer...

*Dear Devotees of Our Lady and Don Bosco,*

Life is moving at a slow pace. We have not yet gone to normal life. As long as students are at home, doing on-line lessons, life is going to be different. With outdoor activities curtailed, especially for the young, their energy is going to be bottled up in frustration. They want to get out to play. **Take them out for some fresh air.**



Here at Don Bosco campus, with empty playgrounds, without the noise of boys and girls, life is dull for us Salesians. Even the empty church is crying for activity. Caution is the key word. The On-line daily Mass and weekly Adoration are the only activity here. The blurry news of the vaccine appears to give some HOPE. **But when? And with what consequences. ANXIETY again.**

Feasts come and go, leaving us little cheer. **8TH SEPTEMBER** is the birthday of Our Heavenly Mother. Happy Birthday, dearest Mother! \* Most Gracious Virgin Mary, turn thy eyes of pity upon us, your children. Will she give us Her Birthday Remembrance?

**29TH SEPTEMBER** is the Feast of the Archangels, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael. This issue is dedicated to St. Michael, the Archangel, the Heavenly Defender of the Church, who controls the evil doings of Satan. May St. Michael too deliver us from Covid-19 and other spiritual ills.

**October is the month of the Holy Rosary.** Our Lady in Her apparitions has always wanted us to encircle our homes and the world with the Rosary, a powerful weapon against the devil. If one good thing the pandemic has done, is that it has given us more time to relax and to PRAY.

The pandemic has enlightened us to the meaning of the “DOMESTIC CHURCH” – a church not of walls, and grandeur, but a church of the streets, reaching out to the needy, irrespective of caste, creed or language. **LONG LIVE THIS CHURCH!** “I was hungry .. you gave ME to eat...”

We bless the Lord for the new lessons of this pandemic, which we hope and pray will not easily be forgotten. Let us pray for each other. **YOU** are all remembered at the Shrine. Keep us informed of any sad plight of yours. God bless you. May the Virgin Mother protect you always!

*Fr. Luddy Pires s.d.b.*

## IMPORTANT FOR ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

NEW WEBSITE:

**fatimashrinedbpanjim.org**

- We accept payments **EXCLUSIVELY** for online mass bookings, general donations, through transfers via NEFT/IMPS/Google pay.
- Transfer via Google pay: there is an option namely "Bank Transfer" through which you can transfer the amount directly into our Bank A/c.
- **Kindly note the change of bank account for transferring the amounts for masses and donations.**

**Name: DON BOSCO SHRINE.**

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- **Details Needed for NEFT/ IMPS/ RTGS Transfers:** to make a **RECEIPT.**
- Kindly send us the following information via Text or WhatsApp message to **7378442021** or Email at **dbshrineoffice@gmail.com**

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PAN: if not sent earlier: mandatory for donations above Rs. 20,000/-

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## For 80G DONATION RECEIPT

- Goa Salesian Society. SB Credit A/c 198001000001112,
- Indian Overseas Bank, Taleigao, Branch. \* IFSC : IOBA0001980
- OR Goa Salesian Society Saving Account 12131000006972
- HDFC Bank, DonaPaula Branch \* IFSC: HDFC 0004848
- **Contact No. 7020153696; Email: ecokonkangoa.gmai.com**

## PRAYER



St. Michael, glorious Prince chief and champion of the heavenly host, guardian of the souls of men. conqueror of the rebel angels, steward of the palace of God, under Jesus Christ our worthy captain, endowed with superhuman excellence and virtue, vouchsafe to free us all from every ill, who with full confidence have recourse to you; and by your incomparable protection enable us to make progress each day in the faithful service of our God.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



### **St. Michael the Archangel**

*crushed the head of Satan, often depicted as a dragon or a serpent.*

- *It's a practice in many parts of India to place a picture or an image of St. Michael the Archangel in homes, as a protection against venomous SNAKES.*
- *Placing pictures alone is not sufficient. The Saint should be invoked often.*

## TURN TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL TO DEFEAT THE CORONA VIRUS !

❖ **St. Michael the Archangel** is repeatedly depicted as the “great captain,” the leader of the heavenly hosts, and the warrior helping the children of Israel. Early in the history of the Christian church he came to be regarded as the helper of the church's armies against the heathen and against the attacks of the Devil.

❖ He holds the secret of the mighty “word” by the utterance of which God created heaven and earth and was “the angel who spoke [to Moses] at Mount Sinai” (Acts 7:38).

❖ The numerous representations of Michael in art reflect his character as a warrior: he is shown with a sword, in combat with or triumph over a dragon, from the story in the Book of Revelation (Apocalypse).

• The feast of St. Michael, which originated in Phrygia, is kept on **September 29** in the West. It is also known as **MICHAELMAS**.

• A formal prayer to St. Michael originated with Pope Leo XIII in 1886.

### • PATRON FOR ALL ILLS.

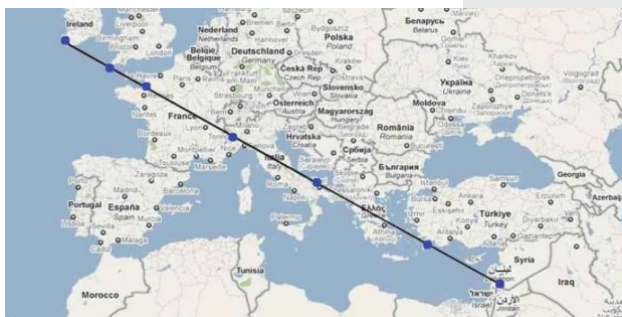
St Michael  
t h e  
Archangel

serves as the patron saint of sick people, suffering from any illness. He is also a patron saint of people who work in dangerous conditions: military personnel, police, security officers, paramedics, sailors, grocers. Traditionally he is Prince-Protector of the Jewish people, patron and guardian of Israel. St. Michael has long been recognized as the Protector and Guardian of the Church itself and the Angel of the Blessed Sacrament.



According to legend, the line represents the blow with which St. Michael sent the devil to hell.

❖ A mysterious imaginary line links seven monasteries, from Ireland to Israel.



These seven sanctuaries are very far from each other, and yet they are perfectly aligned.

❖ Three most important sites - Mont St. Michael (France); the Sacra of San Miguel (Val de Susa); and the Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo in the Gargano are all the same distance one from the other.

❖ Some say this is a reminder from the Holy Archangel that the faithful are expected to be righteous, walking the *straight path*.

❖ The Sacred Line also is perfectly aligned with the sunset on the day of the Northern Hemisphere's Summer Solstice ([www.viagginews.com](http://www.viagginews.com)).

### 'CASTEL SANTANGELO:

❖ It is a large fortress near Vatican City, with a gigantic St. Michael the Archangel statue on top.

❖ This statue has a magnificent story of God's love and care for his people through the angels.

❖ Around 590 A.D. Rome suffered a terrible plague causing many deaths. Pope St. Gregory the Great pleaded for the Angels' help to fight this epidemic.

❖ The Pontiff celebrated Masses and tirelessly organised processions

through Rome with prayers and incense, while the marchers chanted litanies. An image of the Virgin Mary was carried around.



❖ The poisonous air of the city evaporated, so to say, being unable to withstand the presence of the image. The image brought about a wonderful

serenity and purity in the air.

❖ We are also told that the voices of the angels were heard around the image, singing.

“Then the Pope saw an angel of the Lord standing atop the castle of Crescentius, wiping a bloody sword and sheathing it. Pope Gregory understood that, and that put an end to the plague. \* Thereafter the castle was called the Castle of the Holy Angel.”

• Pope St. Gregory the Great then built the St. Michael statue on top of the castle, representing his protection over Rome and the Church.

### ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL ON MOUNT GARGANO.

❖ The traditional feast day commemorating the apparitions of St. Michael has a particular relevance this year as the Corona virus pandemic continues.

❖ In the southeast of Italy, there is a

sanctuary dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel high atop a mountainous promontory called Monte Gargano. It is the oldest shrine dedicated to St. Michael in Western Europe.



❖ Padre Pio was deeply devoted to the Sanctuary of St. Michael atop Mount Gargano and would

often direct penitents to climb the mountain to petition the Archangel's intercession in their battle against sin. The chronicles of the sanctuary document the visits of many emperors, kings, popes, and saints.

❖ St. Francis of Assisi was so captivated by the holiness of the place, that he felt unworthy to even enter, and so only knelt in prayer and kissed the stone floor of the entrance.

❖ On May 8th the Church celebrates the origins of this sanctuary in the liturgical feast titled



“The Apparition of St. Michael, Archangel”, which commemorates an event that took place during the reign of Pope Gelasius (492-6).

❖ In 492, as the story goes, a bull strayed from the herd of a rich land owner from the nearby town of Siponto, which lay at the foot of Mount Gargano. The bull found its way into a cave near the summit of the mountain.

❖ The herdsman, hoping to frighten the bull out of the cave, fired an arrow into its dark recesses. Quite shockingly, the arrow miraculously returned, wounding the man who fired it.

❖ In the face of such a strange and miraculous occurrence, the man and his companions who witnessed the event sought the advice of their bishop.

❖ He recommended 3 days of prayer and fasting to discern the meaning of the phenomenon. On the third day, these pious practices were answered when St. Michael appeared to the bishop and said:

“ You have done well to ask God what was hidden from men . A miracle that struck the man with his own arrow, so that it was clear that all this

happens by my will. I AM THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL and I am always in the presence of God. The cave is sacred to me. And since I have decided to protect this place and its inhabitants on Earth, I wanted to attest in this way that I am of this place and of everything that takes place as patron and custodian. Where the rock is thrown open, the sins of men can be forgiven. What will be asked here in prayer will be granted. Go therefore to the mountain and dedicate the the cave to Christian worship.



❖ From the words of the Archangel we can see how those who honour him at the hallowed grotto will be protected from the wiles of the Devil, just as the bull was protected from the arrow.

❖ Not unlike many in our own day who have risen to positions of power in the Church, the bishop thought more of his own opinion on the matter than the obvious and simple will of God.

❖ The bishop hesitated to consecrate the grotto as a sanctuary of Christian worship as it was difficult to reach, being so high in the mountains and located in an area associated with

pagan cults from the time of the Roman Empire.

❖ While the bishop delayed, Siponto was besieged by an invading pagan army from Naples and was on the verge of surrender. The bishop managed to obtain a 3-day cease-fire and, as before, used those 3 days for prayer and fasting.

❖ Again, St. Michael appeared to the bishop and promised complete victory over the invaders.

❖ The message provided the much needed encouragement to the soldiers of Siponto who took up the fight again with even greater vigour. It is said that during the ensuing battle there were earthquakes and thunderbolts, which helped defeat Siponto's enemies while demonstrating the power of the Archangel's intercession.

❖ After this second apparition and miracle in battle, the bishop felt total remorse for doubting the prudence of St. Michael's request.

❖ In the year 493 he arranged for a grand procession to be made up the mountain, so he could at last consecrate the grotto as a church.

❖ Joined by others bishops along with the priest and people of the

town, it was reported that eagles appeared over the bishops in the procession to shelter them from the rays of the sun with their outstretched wings.

❖ When they finally arrived at the mouth of the grotto the Archangel appeared again, stating,

“It is not your task to consecrate the Basilica I built. I who founded it, I myself consecrated it. But you go in and go to this place, placed under my protection.”

❖ **St. Michael did not wait for the bishop, and instead went and consecrated the grotto himself.**

❖ When the procession entered inside they were amazed to see an altar already erected with a cross upon it. They also found a footprint of St. Michael embedded on the rock floor.

❖ The first Mass in the Grotto of St. Michael was then offered. Since that time, the grotto has affectionately been called the “**Celestial Basilica**” as it is the only proper Christian church never to have been consecrated by the human hands of a bishop.

❖ It has the honour of being personally consecrated by St. Michael the Archangel to whom it is dedicated.

❖ Scholars believe the story of St. Michael's intercession in battle actually has its origins in fighting

that took place almost 2 centuries after the sanctuary on Mount Gargano was established.

❖ During the fighting between the Lombards and Greeks of the Byzantine Empire to the east, the bishop of Siponto named Lawrence, petitioned St. Michael's intercession on behalf of the Lombards.

❖ In the battle that took place on May 8, 663, the Lombards were led to victory by the Duke of Benevento, Grimoald I.

❖ In commemoration of this event, **May 8th was established as a local feast day** in honour of St. Michael, which eventually spread throughout the Church and became associated less with the victory in battle and more with the Archangel's apparitions when the sanctuary atop Mount Gargano was first established.

❖ The fourth and final apparition of St. Michael at Gargano took place centuries later in 1656.

❖ A terrible pestilence was sweeping across southern Italy and the town on the slope of Mount Gargano, which now fittingly goes by Monte Sant'Angelo, was in dire straits.

❖ The bishop of the town was named Alfonso Puccinelli, and he wisely followed the example of his predecessors of centuries before, and turned to St. Michael for help through prayer and fasting.

❖ So desperate was the situation that the bishop even considered placing a paper within the hands of St. Michael's statue within the Grotto of the Apparitions with the name of each and every person of the town inscribed upon it.

❖ Before it came to that, while the bishop was praying in one of the rooms of his episcopal residence, he felt the earth quake and St. Michael suddenly appeared.

❖ The Archangel gave him the directive to bless the stones of his cave at Gargano and then to engrave upon them the letters “MA” for Michael the Archangel.

❖ The apparent vision concluded with the promise: *“Anyone who devotedly keeps these stones with him will be immune to the plague.”*

❖ The Archangel's promise was fulfilled and since that time the Sanctuary of St. Michael at Mount Gargano has distributed

stones from the Grotto of the Apparitions far and wide. These are popular relics/sacramentals that are used by the faithful to invoke the intercession of this powerful intercessor to protect them from the spiritual snares of the Devil, as well as from physical harm.

❖ In the town of Monte Sant'Angelo

a monument still stands today, which the bishop had erected to commemorate St. Michael's protection during the plague.

The sword was carried in procession along with the Blessed Sacrament and a relic of the Holy Cross through the southern Italian town of Gargano.

**Palm Sunday, 2020.** The Italian town of Gargano invoked St. Michael the Archangel **against the corona virus** with a procession of priests carrying the sword from his statue.

❖ Usually the Archangel's sword is taken out of its reliquary just once a year, on his feast day, September 29, but this year's virus crisis prompted urgent prayers.

❖ The sword was carried in procession along with the Blessed Sacrament and a relic of the Holy Cross (a gift brought back by a Crusader in 1228) through the southern

Italian town.

❖ Il Timone, a Catholic newspaper, described the event as “one of great impact” both “in terms of faith and history.”

❖ The Rector of the Shrine, Fr. Ladislao Sucky, invoked the prince of the heavenly host:



## CORONA VIRUS HEROES

**Amidst the tragedy of the Corona Virus pandemic, many people have emerged, whom Pope Francis calls “THE SAINTS NEXT DOOR”. What gives someone the strength and compassion to deal with a difficult situation like the one we are living? To some extent, we could attribute it to a natural disposition towards EMPATHY. But it seems, there is something more than nature at work here.**

Dr Edwin Gomes along with team - Dr Geetali Velip, Dr Nidhi Prabhu, Dr. Masood Muzawar, Dr Hardhal Mamlekar and many others...your sacrifice, hard work, tireless service towards the people of Goa deserves the highest respect.



**D**r. Edwin Gomes and his team of four have helped in a good number of recoveries, treated and monitored patients working several shifts.

❖ They have sent several patients home, having fully recovered and also ensured that other patients improved their parameters and had developed good immunities to be shifted to Covid Care Centres, before being sent home.

❖ Dr. Gomes has been backed by countless number of nurses and a team of doctors led by Dr Ira Almeida, who have been running the entire administration and executing finely drafted-SOPs for Covid care.

❖ They have been replaced with a second team while they take a break.

❖ Dr Gomes on his return will be expected to monitor cases where his attention is needed.

❖ A woman: “Everyone here, Dr Edwin, other doctors, support staff

and even the multi tasking staff, made us feel at home,”.

❖ A youth: “The staff made us feel at home. Right from the hospital clothes to other essentials, everything was provided.”

Every frontline worker and those in the essential services are doing their very best risking their own health and life. Even their families are well aware that

**Covid has turned on its head the valuation we put on our working roles. Cleaners, health workers, grocers and teachers are suddenly more important than millionaires and celebrities.**

there may not be a chance of their returning home. Staff at the hospital are put up at accommodation arranged by the Goa Government and are not allowed to travel home for fear of infecting their families given the risk of contracting the disease they face.

## GOA'S COVID -19 WARRIOR, DR. EDWIN GOMES

**D**R EDWIN GOMES, Head of the Goa Medical College Medicine Department, led a team of doctors at the Margao-based ESI hospital for the treatment of COVID-19 patients

He helped set up the state's dedicated Covid-19 hospital and was heading the hospital for more than three months, 98 days after taking charge as the nodal doctor for treatment of patients at ESI - the lone Covid hospital in Goa - Dr Edwin Gomes was finally relieved from duty in early July 2020.

On returning home, Dr. Edwin got a hero's welcome from his family, neighbours and friends.

What great appreciation for the sacrificial services of this doctor. They lauded his altruism and dedicated services.

**On his experience of treating corona virus cases, Dr Gomes said there is a symptom called 'shortness of breath ... If one misses that and goes into the breathlessness phase, then it becomes difficult to save the person. One must seek medical help when there is shortness of breath.**

Dr. Gomes' earlier tests, as part of regular testing, done on frontline

workers, were negative.

He emerged as positive in a test done during his 3-week layover he was given, after 3 months on the job.

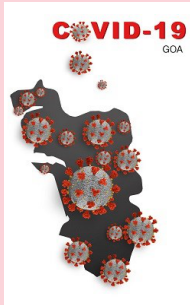
**13th July 2020**, Dr Edwin was tested Corona positive and he had to leave his home and go to the Covid Care Centre.

He chose to follow the protocol for medical staff and chose to stay at the Margao Residency, where he stayed till he was released for home quarantine.

**"Our COVID19 warrior Dr Edwin Gomes has been at the forefront of this fight against the pandemic for the last several months. Dr. Gomes has helped hundreds of patients win the battle against corona virus & I am confident he will emerge victorious in his battle too,"**

Goa was earlier declared a green zone by the Union Government, as there was not a single active COVID-19 case until May 1, 2020.

Hopefully, when Dr. Edwin Gomes returns to his practice, the situation will improve, as like Jesus, his Lord and



Chief Minister of Goa Dr Pramod Sawant wished Dr Edwin a speedy recovery.

Master, he wants to go about doing good.

### **TENDER LOVING CARE (TLC)**

Goa's first active case of COVID-19 to be cured, **Edgar Remedios** said, "it was not just the medicine, but the manner in which Dr. Gomes puts you at ease, which is also a part of his healing potion.

"Dr. Gomes resurrected me. To put me at ease, he himself would take an anxiety tablet with me, because he was also under stress. He just calmed my nerves. I have great gratitude for me."

### **Efficiency becomes effective when there is the personal touch.**

A 40-year old lady from Maharashtra." He (Dr Edwin) is our

God, we did not see God but if he happens to be somewhere on earth, I think he is here in front of us. Though we had family members calling us up and inquiring every day, Dr Edwin was the one who gave us confidence from day one that we aren't going to die,"

Dr. Edwin himself stated that he would walk through the wards, meeting patients, talking to them, consoling them and giving them the necessary information and encouragement.

Personal attention and care is a therapy by itself. In medical usage, it is termed Tender Loving Care (TLC). He encourages his staff too, to do the same. Good example is easy to follow.

Dr. Edwin Gomes has hugged almost 190 patients at the time of their discharge in the last 3 months. By hugging them, when they are discharged after testing negative, Dr. Gomes intends to send across a message to society to accept these people and not ostracise them, whom he termed as "COVID angels".

"Their PLASMA can be used to treat other COVID-19 patients as they have the antibodies," Dr. Edwin says, adding that the recovered patients are the best persons to share their health experience with others.

Dr. Edwin lauded a patient, who after recovering from the infection helped other patients in the hospital. He helped other patients by feeding them, putting the bed pan. He was like a nurse.

If some patient had a query, he would answer. Such kind of people could be roped in to work at the COVID care centres set up by the state government.

❖ We are cured but we have learnt that the families are being taunted by neighbours,"

Dr Gomes asserts: "I think society and neighbours need to give them respect, they have defeated corona, they have developed anti-bodies, which can be useful in the fight against corona. Some of them have also volunteered to



work here in the hospital, which is a great gesture.. However, as the social stigma remains, the State Executive Committee has decided to create awareness amongst people not to stigmatise the cured persons.



Communion, often in a state serious sins and without the proper reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**BE HUMAN.  
GREET THEM. DO**

### **NOT OSTRACIZE THEM.**

If there is someone we know in the neighbourhood, or at the workplace, who is a victim of Covid 19, we need to stretch ourselves and be of assistance, in whatever way we can.

The Holy Spirit will empower us to be good Samaritans.

Naturally take the precautions, wear a mask, sanitize your hand, and reach out to help.

Treat survivors and their families with respect and be grateful, especially if they have been frontline workers.

### **THE SECRET OF HIS EFFICACY**

Those who know Dr. Edwin, will admit that he is a religious person.

Dr. is a regular daily Mass goer. He is so imbued with the Word of God, that it is his practice to ask his Catholic patients to tell him about the Mass readings of the day.

On a recent chat, he said, "Tell the people that "Confession is as important as Holy Communion". Yes. Unscrupulous souls receive Holy

*Contd from pg 11*

Today we invoke him because as in the past, in the various moments of trial, of natural disasters, even of plague, our fathers in this place have invoked him and have always found his help. His intercession brought a salvation for Monte Sant'Angelo during the plague period of 1656. Today we invoke through his intercession the Lord to save not only Monte Sant'Angelo, but all Italy, all Gargano, all the world from this epidemic.

**Gargano's Mayor called for St.**

### **Michael's intercession.**

Archangel Michael, [Gargano] is a city that kneels before you through my knees; it is a city that looks up to you through my eyes; it is a city that prays to you today through my voice. Accept this prayer of ours, defend with your sword our city, our country from this pandemic. Protect this people today as [in 1656]. Give them the strength to stay united in the face of this terrible emergency. May this prayer of ours be a song that goes straight to God.

## CORONA VIRUS AND DON BOSCO

### HOW ST. JOHN BOSCO HANDLED AN EPIDEMIC

Throughout the world, we are experiencing the cruel reality of the “Coronavirus”. Don Bosco too had a similar experience.

The COVID-19 corona virus is a new threat to our society, but mankind has faced even more serious ones in the past, including the Black Death in the 14th century, when between 30 - 60% of Europe's population fell victim to the Bubonic plague.

Later, in the 19th century, a cholera epidemic ravaged Europe at the same time that St. John Bosco, (Don Bosco) was building up his Salesian Order, which would do so much for Catholic education around the world.

Even then, in the midst of the plague hitting the people of Turin, the boys at the Oratory grew up with the **“desire to do good”**.

The summer of 1854 brought the fearful news of the cholera. The epidemic hit first Liguria, causing 3,000 victims. The first cases in Turin were seen on July 30-31.

N.B. The bacterium the “Vibrio Cholera”, was only discovered by Robert Koch in 1884.

The Red Cross was founded in 1864, ten years later!

In the absence of scientific

information, the usual rumours, fuelled by ignorance and fear, spread throughout the city.

**“Common people insisted on thinking that doctors gave their patients a poisoned drink, which in Turin was called “acquetta”, given to make them die sooner.”.**

Fear caused “the closing of the shops, the people to flee from the infected place”.

The Royal Family fled in closed carriages and took refuge in the castle of Caselette.

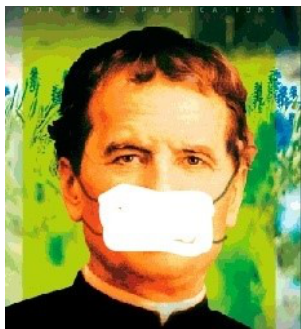
The most affected area of Turin was the most polluted, Borgo Dora, bordering with Valdocco.

Don Bosco took the appropriate measures: The exams were anticipated to before the end of July - a month in advance - all schools were closed..

Cholera was raging in the Piedmontese city. The Oratory was surrounded by dying people, corpses were all around. This was a feared disease with a 60% death rate.

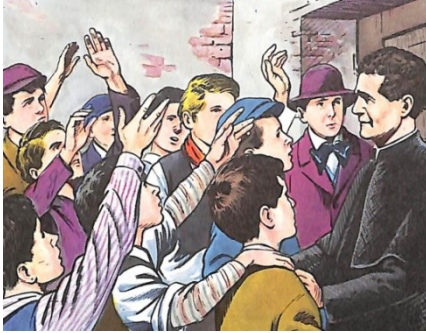
The saint had told his pupils in advance about the disease, but comforted them by saying that they would be safe if they followed his advice:

**Avoid sin, have recourse to prayer,**



**to wear a blessed Marian medal or scapular.**

Don Bosco took the necessary precautions: He had the windows opened for fresh air, he insisted on regular cleaning of all the areas, there were spaces between the beds in the



dormitory, and insisted on hand washing.

He began a pattern of regular prayer for the victims and those who were caring for them

At the end of the first week the city authorities made an appeal for help for “first aiders” who could deal with the thousands of cases emerging.

Cholera is a messy disease involving fever vomiting, diarrhoea and dehydration.

People needed to be kept clean and given plenty of clean water to survive.

The onset could be sudden, people were collapsing in the street. It was a disgusting mess..

The city authorities set up “lazarettos” - temporary hospitals - to

deal with the victims of the disease. But they found it almost impossible to staff them, such was the general dread of cholera.

On the evening of Saturday, Aug. 5, the feast of Our Lady of the Snows, Don Bosco spoke to his pupils of Our Lady's powerful intercession in combating the disease and her advocacy as the Mother of Mercy, who alone could help them.

He advised them that the best means of protection against it was a **good confession and Holy Communion received worthily.**

He promised that if they did that and remained in a state of grace, then not one of them would be stricken by the disease. (MB 5,87).

Immediately 14 pupils offered to help him. The next day another 30 volunteered. They were given basic training in nursing and put to work in very demanding conditions.



They were divided up into groups and given various tasks, including helping in the **lazarettos**, helping victims in their homes and searching out those who had been abandoned by their

relatives.

Don Bosco was their model in all this, with his great devotion to the sick and dying.

**The Flying Volunteers of Don Bosco**, the “flying nurses”- rushed to provide emergency first aid, at any request, at any time, day or night

But even so, to their everlasting credit, the youngsters had to overcome a great repugnance in dealing with the victims of the outbreak, who would often be contorted with pain and dreadful convulsions, and foaming at the mouth.

Each of these teams worked in pairs and wore masks. Each pupil carried a bottle of vinegar to wash their hands with before and after touching and infected person. If they ran out of vinegar, they had to return to the oratory immediately.

The pupils also provided fresh linen to victims and burnt the old linen. The poor were given sheets, shirts, blankets. Bed sheets became so scarce that Don Bosco's mother, Margaret, stripped the cloths of the altars in church to provide clean sheets for the sick.

The reserves of the Oratory were very soon exhausted.

The epidemic lasted 3 months and

for 3 months that charity continued and left the boys drained.

When with the autumn rains, the cholera ended, there were 1,248 deaths in Turin, 320 thousand in Italy. The end of the emergency was declared on November 21st

**A prodigious result: among the 44 Oratory volunteers, none was affected by the infection!**

The writer Nicolò Tommaseo, who



in those years lived in via Dora Grossa, (now via Garibaldi 22), wrote to Don Bosco on October 3rd: “ I know of the generous charity exercised by you and your young men in the

disease that especially threatened the poor of the city... I owe you heartfelt thanks, as a Christian” (MB 5,118).

Among the heroic young volunteers to assist the sick were Michael Rua, Juan Cagliero and Luis Anfossi, all adolescents between 14 and 17 years old. Years later, the 3 will form part of the group that –with Don Bosco– will found the Salesian Congregation.

Among the 14 front-line volunteers was 14-year-old Domingo Savio, and 30 young children, who naturally did not come into contact with the sick, entrusting them with auxiliary tasks.

## Narrated by the Salesian Rector Major, Don Angel Fernandez Artime.

Quarantined at home, while her husband spent his final hours in the hospital, a woman recounts that during all that time the hardest was being unable to go see him, to be with him and to talk to him. He was in isolation and they did not let anyone in to see him. The entire hospital was filled with coronavirus patients and no visitors were allowed.

Meanwhile, at home, this woman, wife and mother, lived that suffering and pain with a huge heart.

“It is very hard, but Christ is supporting me. Knowing that He is with me on the Cross, that I am there with Him, that we are together, and knowing that my husband is in His hands is what gives me strength”.

This mother and her children turned to prayer and found comfort: “We pray the rosary every day and we are making a novena to St. Joseph that we have already finished once and then started all over again. We add petitions for all those who are facing a similar situation with admirable faith”.

“There were days when I was taking it very badly, but now I am living this situation with greater peace and with acceptance. Accepting reality helps you live everything with less despair - still with the suffering of not seeing him but with the peace that



comes from knowing that no matter what happens, in the end, it is God's Will».

Her testimony teaches us that although we may not be prepared for difficult trials such as these, staying close to God gives us life and helps us live these moments of suffering "with less despair", as does this believing woman who knows that love knows no limits and that it is important to hold onto the Cross, especially at times like these.

Two days before her husband's death, she sent this message: I am grateful for the very many messages of support and prayer. This gives me life, as does knowing that there are many people praying for him. If, in the end, he is not cured, it is because there is a greater good that will come of it. It is something very hard, very difficult, but also, at the same time, God grants you the ability to see the love of others and of how He loves us. And that is a very big thing. The love made tangible in the union that exists in the family, in the messages of support from other people, in the friends who pray for each other, in the dedication of the doctors who accompany our patients is what allows us to look at reality with different eyes. It transforms us into witnesses of something superior and

*Contd on pg 20*

**Dear Salesian Family Members,**



*Thank you very much for your prayers. I am getting discharged from hospital. I need to rest and undergo 6 weeks of physiotherapy. I am only 85% healed. My health is much better and I have regained my energy. The first week of my contacting the COVID, I was in the danger zone. However your prayers and my will power that enabled me to fight the virus*

*I have experienced the healing touch of Don Bosco's mother, Venerable Mama Margaret. I earnestly prayed to her. After the statue of Mamma Margaret was erected at Valdocco, Turin, during the General Chapter 28. I used to pray to her daily, remembering how my own mother, introduced me to the call of God..*

*All my doctors declare that they have experienced miracles in these past 40 days in the hospital. The severity of my Covid attack was 72%. People with 52% have not survived. The side effect of Covid is: formation of blood clots. With blood clots in the brain or in the heart: people have died. Sometimes these are formed in the leg veins and then they move to the heart or brain. For me the blood clot was formed in the vein of the right leg, for which I was given 46 injections on the thigh. The doctors have taken an ultra sound and they have found out that the clot has completely disappeared. Thank God, it did not move to the heart or to the brain. Normally, with medication, it takes about 6 months for the clot to get diluted.*

*The Salesian Family members daily conducted Adorations, offered Masses and Rosaries.*

*I hope and pray that within 6 weeks I will be perfectly healed.*

**Fr Don Bosco Lourduwamy.**

Vice Provincial: Salesian Chennai Province

*Contd from pg 19*

greater than ourselves so we may go out to meet others. This wife and her family received the news that her husband passed away and they became closer than ever. They continue to

breathe in that love with the confidence that they are not alone. Only from a heart that loves deeply can she say: "He has gone to Heaven, with Jesus. I trust God, who gives me strength and peace". Thus ends this testimony.

## LAUGH YOUR BLUES AWAY

**PRAYER FOR GOOD HUMOUR:** by St. Thomas More

**\*\* Pope Francis prays it daily.**

*Grant me, O Lord, good digestion, and also something to digest.  
Grant me a healthy body, and the good humour to maintain it.  
Grant me a simple soul that knows to treasure all that is good  
And that doesn't frighten easily at the sight of evil,  
But rather finds the means to put things back in their place.*

*Give me a soul that knows not boredom, grumblings,  
sighs and laments, nor excess of stress,  
Because of that obstructing thing called "I."  
Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humour.  
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to  
discover in life a bit of joy,  
And to be able to share it with others.*



### LOCKDOWN HUMOUR



❖ Johnny goes to his girlfriend, Cecilia on her birthday..  
He asks her, "Darling, can I get you a diamond necklace, for your birthday?"  
Cecilia happy as ever replied, "Nothing would please me more"  
So he got her Nothing.

Johnny is always grateful to his English teacher.

❖ Doctor asked Johnny to cut down his drinking by three fourths....!  
Smart Johnny stopped adding Soda.



❖ Johnny was driving back home from a party. He was high and saw there was Police checking. He was scared at that very moment but then immediately got down from the driver seat and sat in the back seat.

The Police Officer came and asked Johnny to move his car ahead..

Johnny said: "My driver ran away seeing you."

The Police Officer replied: "Then you move your car ahead for the checking."

Johnny said: "No sir, as a true Indian citizen I should not drive drunk."

The Officer looked at Johnny and applauded him for his responsible behaviour.

He had a constable sent to drive Johnny's car home.

***Who says a drunkard's brain doesn't work ?***

## SALESIAN PRE-NOVICES AT LOUTOLIM, GOA

**Pre-Novitiate is a time given to the candidates to understand better their Salesian vocation. In June 2019, the Salesian Province of Panjim-Konkan shifted the Pre-Novitiate at Loutolim, Goa. Formerly it was located at Pinguli – Kudal on the borders of Goa and Maharashtra. This formation house caters to both the Provinces of Panjim-Konkan (INP) and Mumbai (INB).**

*Vicky D'Souza-Dean of studies, Cl. Steve Rodrigues-Practical Trainee.*

The prenovices begin their formation year in June and conclude it in April each year. This year because of the Lockdown, the course began in July 2020.

Most of these pre-novices have completed their Stds. XI and XII studies in one of our aspirantates at Panjim (Goa), Shirva (Mangalore), Lonavla (Maharashtra) or Kapadvanj (Gujarat). Those who have already completed their Std. XII or any other higher Technical / Engineering studies, have an Orientation Year in an aspirantate and / or a salesian community designated for them by the Provincial Superior.

On 7 July 2020, 10 Pre Novices joined the Salesian Pre Novitiate at Don Bosco, Loutolim. 9 (INB) + 1 (INP). They were well received by the Rector and the Staff. *(See back cover for photo of prenovices Presley Andrade, Loren Crasto, Ankit Ganawa, Ajay Mavis, Piyush Ninama, Ralston Rozario, Swapnil Shelke, Kanishk Thekemuri, Daniel Thevar, Elton Fdes (INP)).*

For fresh recruits to the Salesian way of life, vocation camps are regularly conducted in various places during the scholastic holidays. These camps are attended by boys from Salesian institutions and parishes.



**Photo (R to L) Prenovice Elton Fds. (INP) Staff members: Fr. Felix Fdes. - Provincial, Br. Frederick D'Souza. Fr. Simao Fdes - Rector, Fr. Augustine Fdes-Admiinistrator, Fr.**

Vocation Promoters also regularly visit parishes and institutions of the diocese and other religious to help in the discernment of a religious / Priestly vocation.

During the year attention is paid to their human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. Regular classes are held in Faith Formation, Basics of Religious Life, Salesian Charism and History, English (spoken and written, with special attention given to those from a vernacular education) and even Principles of Etiquette and Good Manners.

- **Spiritual Formation** is much stressed through the daily practices of piety, facilities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Spiritual Direction, regular monthly recollection, talks, conferences, and an annual Retreat.
- **Cultural activities** (music, singing, art etc) and sports also are given due importance in view of their future apostolate among the youth for whom the Lord has

called them to dedicate their lives.

For their **Pastoral Formation** the pre-novices help in the neighbouring parishes and apostolic works on Sundays. \* Every year they have a 2-week community experience in one of the salesian communities. The pre-novices go home for their Christ-mas and



Sum-mer vacations.

By the month of March the pre-novices after being helped through a serious process of discernment, make their Application to join the Salesian way of life. Those who are admitted to the novitiate proceed to Nasik (Maharashtra) and begin their canonical year on 24 May, Feast of Mary Help of Christians.

❖ **Next stage of Formation: Nasik (Mahahrashtra)**



Anyone desirous of joining the **Salesians of Don Bosco**, or needing information on the Salesian way of life, can contact: Don Bosco, Panjim, Goa. 403 001 or Email: [avincarvalho@yahoo.com](mailto:avincarvalho@yahoo.com) / [loddyp@gmail.com](mailto:loddyp@gmail.com)

You are welcome to offer a contribution towards the "**Vocation Burse**".

Any amount is welcome.

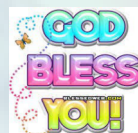
For further information, contact Fr. Loddy Pires)

## INTERCESSION OF ST. DOMINIC SAVIO



**NOELLE and MIGUEL REBELLO,**

thank Almighty God for the gift of **BRIELLE MARIE GRACE**, their daughter, born on 21st September, 2018, through the intercession of Our Lady, and St. Dominic Savio.



**LOVELINA and ARWIN FERNANDES,**

gratefully accept from Our Heavenly Father, the gift of a baby girl, **LIZA ANNA** who was born on 6th

MARCH 2020, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, and St. Dominic Savio.



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## SALESIANS & PRE-NOVICES OF LOUTOLIM.

