

VISION & MISSION

Dear Co- Missionaries,

“A Spirit of Hope for the Future”: This is the banner that our La Salette Missionaries in the mission of Angola have worked diligently to achieve in bringing the Good News of salvation to their people.

We have just finished celebrating the central belief of our Christian Faith: “Christ has died, Christ has risen”. His death and resurrection is the sign of HOPE for us who believe. St. Paul tells us: **O death where is your victory, O death where is your sting”**. It is a statement of triumph over death, celebrating that death has been defeated and its power broken through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Christians we are a people of HOPE. This is the HOPE that I experienced during my mission visit to Angola. I met a people who had suffered the pains of war and devastation yet through HOPE never despaired. A people who have witnessed death surround them due to the 27 years of civil war yet believed in a HOPE that a better future was possible. A people who held on to a HOPE that enabled them to rise from a mentality of death and despair. It was this HOPE that gave them the strength to rebuild a new mentality among their people of reconciliation and peace for a brighter future. Let us open our hearts during this Easter season to the needs of our La Salette Missionaries in Angola. May our prayers and generosity be concrete signs in helping them to achieve their mission of reconciliation by building a **“SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE”**.

HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!!!

Fr. Jeremy Morais, MS.



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THE SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



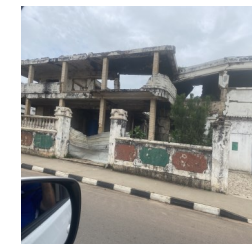
Pope Francis has dedicated this year 2025 as the “Jubilee Year of Hope” for the Church. This past January I had the opportunity to visit our La Salette Missionaries working on the west coast of Africa in the country of Angola. I dedicate this news letter to them as they continue their ministry of bringing a **“SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE”** to the people they serve. The La Salette Missionaries working in



Angola belong to the Province with the title Mary Queen of Peace. What an appropriate name for the Province after having battled a civil

war for over 27 years before some sense of stability returned to their homeland. This Province in Angola was founded by the La Salette Missionaries from Switzerland. They came to this African country to bring the Good News of Christ and Mary’s message of Reconciliation. Reconciliation so needed to bring some sort of lasting peace after 27 years of violence and destruction that plagued their nation. During my visit I came to understand

more clearly the situation that our La Salette Missionaries find themselves. The remnants of



the civil war are very visible. I saw many of the buildings destroyed by the civil war. It was sad to see the ruins of a large hospital built by the Swiss mission-

aries destroyed by the war. This hospital had been built to serve the people in the rural areas who came for medical assistance. Now only a small medical dispensary stands in its place for the medical needs of the people in the area. The life of our missionaries in the rural areas where they serve is not easy. The roads are bad and many of their mission posts must be visited by walking with a back pack. Even with this inconvenience our missionaries continue to bring the Good News to the people they serve. The life of our missionaries in the rural areas is not easy. The roads are bad and many of their out reaching mission posts must be visited by walking with a back pack. Even with this inconvenience our missionaries continue to bring the Good News to the people they serve.





THE SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



In spite of the civil war, the devastation left, the pain they experienced, our Angolan La Salette Missionaries did not give up or fall into discouragement. They continued to minister to God's people with love and dedication. Their efforts did not end up in vain. To the contrary the Lord blessed them with



many vocations. At present the Angolan Province has 144 priests and brothers of whom 43 are preparing for ordination. There are also 100 young men studying in the seminary. As you can see they have been graciously Blessed by the Lord. Their new Provincial told me, "We are blessed with many vocations by God but those vocations are not only for Angola. We have decided that they are to be shared to serve our La Salette Congregation at large where ever they are needed: Portugal, Italy, Namibia, Mozambique, USA, etc. With the blessings of many young Angolan men joining our Congregation they are faced with the difficulty to sustain them financially: housing, food, education, etc. At present the 98 young men live together in a house of formation still under construction.

One of the things that touched me the most is when I visited the young seminarians at their minor seminary. Because of the lack of space they have nine young men sleeping together in a very small room. It was hard to believe how they could sleep in such cramped quarters. After seeing their situation I came to realize that with the blessing of many vocations comes the difficulty and sacrifice needed to sustain them. These young men need better living quarters and hopefully the



funds received from the mission office will help to alleviate their situation. The La Salette Missionaries in Angola are struggling financially to keep up their ministries, especially in regards to taking care of the many vocations coming to their Province. Many areas where our missionaries work the people are poor and it is difficult financially for them to do any type of needed construction. That is why the Province of Angola is still dependent upon the assistance from the exterior through the generous donations of our benefactors. Looking into the future the members of the Province have decided to make education a priority.



They believe that it is only through education that the children can obtain a brighter and better future for themselves. They can only hope and pray that the generosity of our benefactors can give them the possibility to achieve this reality of bringing a "SPIRIT OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE" to the people they serve. To quote their new Provincial, "Angola has faced a very tragic war for 27 years (1977-2002). We can imagine how the country has been destroyed during those years of conflict, but the most important thing that has been destroyed is human beings. Although the country arrived at a peace agreement 22 years ago, one can still observe those who used to combat against each other (the government and the rebel movement) still not reconciled both in mind and in heart. It's against this background that the La Salette Missionaries in Angola are playing a key role through education. We understand that if you want to educate a human being, then education should start at an early age. Our goal is to contribute to nation building, a reconciled nation, through the gospel values, through our La Salette charism of "RECONCILIATION".

If true Peace is to be achieved it must be done by teaching our youth the need to be reconciled. That is why education for the future of the children of Angola is our priority. A future that rejects a false hope of the past, that violence and war are the only means for change. It is through education that we offer them a new path to combat against ruining their lives by falling into drugs and prostitution. These paths can only destroy their lives. Through education we offer them real HOPE for a prosperous future and for the advancement of their beloved country ANGOLA."



The La Salette Mission Center supports over 20 mission countries. We wanted to share with you the new life given to our different missions through your financial sacrifice. To support the missions, mail a donation to the La Salette Mission Center at 4650 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63111 or visit www.lsmc.org and click donate. Make a note on your donation, "Thank you!

Fr. Jeremy Morais, MS.

