

# AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSION



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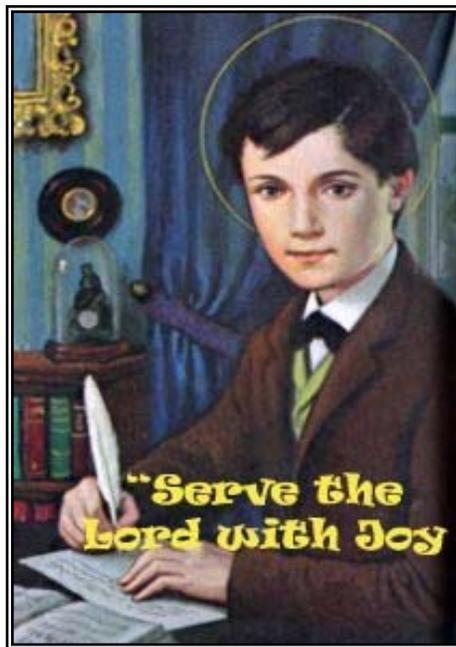
## JOY AND HOPE

**I**n the system of Don Bosco, it is said that there is no place for discouragement in the face of any difficulty. What prevails during these situations is a calm and serene acceptance of whatever is good. The third pillar of Don Bosco's spirituality was his educational system of joy and hope. Dominic Savio, had fully grasped this when he suggested to his young companions: **"Let's make holiness consist in being very cheerful!"**

Salesian holiness is the fruit of a pedagogy of joy based on Christian hope in the eternal joy of paradise. Hope was for Don Bosco the virtue that spurred him to embark on the adventurous undertakings in his life. The way to live in hope is in complementary with joy. Both require living in union with others with responsibility. It impels one to be involved in the present moment but without being a slave to it. It knows that no progress is possible without the cross so that this is taken up with joy and generosity.

Don Bosco placed full trust in the Lord's provident presence in his own life. He often used to say that the saints, while taking the final judgment seriously, lived in supreme joy because they trusted in the goodness of a

Father who has infinite good things in store for his faithful servants.



If Francis of Assisi made nature holy, Don Bosco made joy holy, remembering what Philip Neri had said to his young followers: **"Run, jump, amuse yourselves as much as you like, but for pity's sake, don't sin!"**.

Like hope, which is a disposition given by God, joy too was not so much a methodological expedient but rather a form of life, an evangelical constant that gives rise to happiness and optimism. He felt that there was an affinity and harmony between serene young people and Christian life — a mutual appeal:

*"The young person who feels he is in a state of grace with God naturally experiences joy in the certainty that he possesses a good that is completely within his reach, and he expresses this*

*state of pleasure in cheerfulness"* (John Bosco, *Vita del Giovanetto Savio Domenico*, in *Opere Edite*, XI, p. 236).

For him, **Servite Domino in Laetitia** was the 11th commandment.

### **SIMPLE HINTS: Joy and hope**

1. We cannot fake cheerfulness. It is genuine if it stems from a clean conscience.
2. If you are sad, look at the mirror and learn to laugh at yourself.
3. Accept life as a gift, develop its best aspects with gratitude and live it with joy.
4. Be ready to join in the recreation, games, campings and outings with the boys.
5. Promote a cheerful and trusting atmosphere in which the personality of the young person can open up spontaneously and mature.
6. "Here you should know that we make holiness consist in being very cheerful" Dominic Savio
7. "Suffer silently, Smile always!" Laura Vicuna
8. The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it.
9. What makes a rainbow is both rain and sunshine; what makes love is both joy and hope.
10. En = "with"; Joy = "company" therefore enjoyment is not self serving, it is enjoyed with company.

# A GLASS OF MILK THE TIMOR LESTE DAIRY PROJECT



Milk never tasted this good



Enjoying a toast of milk with government officials and Fr. Jojo

**T**he Don Bosco Agricultural School in Fuiloro where Australian Rotarians brought lots of dairy cows a couple of years ago is a testament to the sense of joy and hope to the future of Timor Leste. The milk facility is still going strong after six years, and kids all around Fuiloro are healthier for it.

The Timor Leste Dairy Project began in 1998 when the Kiwanis Club of Brighton (Victoria, Australia) undertook to provide fresh milk for the children of Timor Leste. (formerly East Timor) The club had learnt that many of the children in the Fuiloro District of Timor Leste walked over 5 kilometres a day to get to school and were in urgent need of nutritional support.

With financial assistance from the Kiwanis Clubs of Australia and New Zealand, and the co-operation of Christian College, Geelong, the project committee reared a herd of tropical tolerant cattle whilst volunteers dismantled a disused herringbone dairy from near Shepparton locale.

The complete milking facility requires a refrigerated vat, a hot-water system, a diesel generator, a two-ton refrigerated truck, fencing, and stainless steel containers, to name just a few items. Delivering the cattle required a portable stockyard, a cattle loading ramp, trucks, and water transport. Private donors and organizations provided much of it, and the Australian Army helped unload the cattle after arrival in Timor Leste.

The dairy was reassembled at Fuiloro Agricultural School in Timor Leste and the first herd (comprising 30 pregnant heifers and two bulls) left Australia in April 2002.

The agricultural training facility is capable of providing basic training in dairy operation, a secure home for the herd, and the capacity

to distribute milk to children. It has also reared healthy and well cared for calves which are the future of the East Timor Dairy Project. It supports 500 farming families in six villages by constructing water-supply systems, cultivating land, and establishing poultry and pig projects.

When the delivery truck arrives in villages, kids run from houses yelling "**Susubeen!**"- the Timorese word for milk. The dairy peaked at 250 litres of milk a day and almost 1000 children were able to drink of fresh milk from the dairy almost daily. Their smiling faces summed up the feelings of everyone.

The people of Timor Leste are again struggling for survival amid chaos caused by a breakdown of civil authority at the present times. Despite the political unrest in Timor, the people among them the Salesians continue to work hand in hand with foreign help from Australia and New Zealand. The people had never stopped in working for the continued success of the farm operations combating malnutrition and even bring hope that a brighter future is possible in a land torn in turmoil.

*(The establishment of a Dairy in Don Bosco Agricultural School, a project of Kiwanis Australia and supported by numerous groups including AusAID and Australian Volunteers International, has been a major achievement. It is an investment in excess of \$500,000.)*



Milking the cows as part of the dairy operations