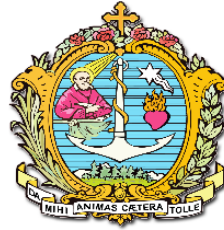


CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

1924-2024



THE FOUNDING SALESIANS

Fr Aeneas Tozzi was born in Italy in April 1875. At the age of twelve he met Don Bosco and was drawn to the Salesians. He was ordained in November 1897 at the young age of 22! Newly ordained, he was sent to England as a novice-master and in 1903 to the Salesian Institute in Cape Town, then located at 49 Buitenkant Street, a diocesan property, as Rector of the community. He was to oversee the building of the new Salesian Institute and to the transfer of the Salesians and students in 1910.



In recognition of his work at the Institute with the youngsters of Cape Town and for his dedicated service to the Italian community, he received a Knighthood (with the title ~Cavaliere~) from King Emmanuel III of Italy on

September 10th 1922.

He bought the land in Claremont and became the first Rector of the community, under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians, in 1923 and saw to the opening of the Salesian Agricultural School and also accepted pastoral responsibility for the Catholics in the area in 1924. In 1926 he was appointed as provincial superior of the Anglo-Irish province, requiring that he return to England where he opened the houses at Shrigley, Blaisdon and Beckford.

When war broke out in 1940, he went to America and remained there as the representative of the Rector Major until 1946. Returning to England, he became confessor to the students of theology at Melchet Court and here he spent the last years of his quite remarkable life. Fr Aeneas died on the 28th February 1958 at 83 years of age.



Fr Filippo Pappalardo was also born in Italy on the 10th October 1870 and was ordained a Salesian priest in December 1907. He was sent to Cape Town in 1922 and took up residence in Claremont as the first Bursar of the school, Manager of the Farm and assistant to Fr Tozzi, all of which required a great deal of physical work.

Fr Philip then returned to Italy in 1925, after which he went to India as a missionary. Returning to Italy, he was appointed as confessor to the community at Roma Testaccio. With advancing age and failing eyesight, he was given special permission to celebrate Mass privately. He died on the 8th June 1965 at the age of 94 and is buried in the cemetery at Roma Verano.

Fr Pappalardo was the second founding Salesian, to whom we also owe a huge debt of gratitude.



“If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our forces on the Christian education of the young. Experience has taught me that if we wish to sustain civil society then we should take good care of the young”.

St. John Bosco