



Youth Ministry

The Province Youth Ministry Office along with other members of the Salesian Family collaborated to provide the province with monthly resources for you to use. Each month each resource will have a video from a member of the Salesian Family, a theme, prayer, saint and call to action. We encourage you to use these monthly resources not only with your young people but young adults as well. If you need further information or help please contact our Province Salesian Youth Ministry Office.

September

-Introduce the topic "Good Christians and Upright Citizens," and invite the young people to read along with you or ask for participation.

Adult Leader:

"Good Christians and upright citizens"

As members of the Salesian Family, we strive to be "good Christians and upright citizens." As good Christians, we bear witness to our faith in our everyday lives, living out the gospel values and being committed to making the world in which we live a place of encounter with God. The call to be upright citizens extends beyond our particular nationalities, and instead prompts us to recognize the responsibility we each have to take an active role in the duties we hold as citizens of the world and citizens of heaven, becoming protagonists of the common good and prophetic agents of change who transform society for the better as we build the Kingdom of God.

Living in today's world, however, poses many challenges to being "good Christians and upright citizens." We turn on the news or scroll through our various social media newsfeeds and are bombarded with images and stories that can be overwhelmingly discouraging. Yet we are called to be prepared for the society in which we find ourselves, equipped with a strong sense of citizenship, social justice, and our evangelical values that inspire in us a life of service to others, commitment to the public life, and a strong sense of personal honesty. We work to take a stand against all forms of corruption, to be sensitive to the needs of creation and the common home we



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share, and to be attentive to the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world, especially those most defenseless and discarded.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Jesus taught us to pray daily, "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
Don Bosco took this to heart
and he made that his program, his "policy of the Our Father"
with the intention of preparing young people for society.
Help us to proclaim your Kingdom by shaping good Christians and raising honest
citizens.
Give us the grace to work together so that your will be done now, here, in this place.
Make of our young people witnesses of your Kingdom.
witnesses of your will,
witnesses of your call to holiness.
And following this call, help all of us to transform the world and the culture
with your Presence and your Love.
We ask this through Christ, your Son, and empowered by the
guidance of your Spirit.
Amen.

Adult Leader:

Before showing the video please give a brief introduction to Fr. Ted Montemayor. (Video given by our Provincial Fr. Ted Montemayor, SDB)

<https://youtu.be/7dX5ly39pes>

Adult Leader:

Ask your young people the following questions and have a short discussion on their responses.



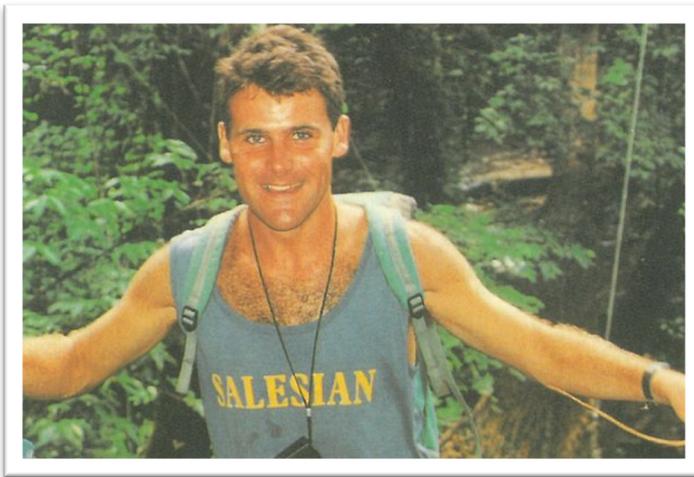
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Saintly Role Models

What does it look like to be “good Christians and upright citizens” in our own lives? How do we navigate the challenges of our world and society as we do our best to answer God’s call?

Adult Leader:

We are fortunate to have so many examples of women and men in our Salesian Family who committed their lives to the service of the Church and society with a Salesian heart, being courageous bearers of God’s love to a world so much in need.



One such young man is Sean Devereux.

“Sean was born in 1963 in Yatley, England, and was a pupil at the Salesian College in Farnborough between 1975 and 1982. After obtaining a degree in geography and education at Birmingham and a post graduate certificate in education in Exeter in 1986, he became a teacher in the Salesian

School in Chertsey, Surrey. During these years, he was an enthusiastic and active member of the Salesian Cooperators and of the Past Pupils. He took part in many activities for young people in England and overseas. In one of his trips abroad while taking part in a meeting, he made an important decision for his future life: he would leave for Africa as a volunteer with the Salesians in February 1989 when he was able to leave for the Salesian Mission in Tappita, where he began working as St. Francis School. When the school was closed as a result of the outbreak of the civil war in 1990, Sean began to work with the United Nations as a volunteer coordinating food distribution, first in the more remote parts of Liberia, then among the Liberian refugees in Guinea. The great decision of his life had been made: he was in one of the poorest countries in Africa



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helping children and young people; and he would have continued to do so until his contract with the UN ran out. His opposition to the war created problems for him with the rebels who on one occasion beat him up badly. In September of 1992, he returned home and then began to work with UNICEF and was sent to Kismayo in Somalia, 250 kilometers south of Mogadiscio.

Sean spoke openly about the anarchy in a country where the people were suffering so much, and about the insensitivity that was all around; he condemned the corruption of the leaders and the selfish exploitation he witnessed. This could have cost him his life! In the port of Kismayo on January 3, 1993, after he refused the armed escort that was almost compulsory in that country, (he never concealed his contempt for the war and the warlords who profited from it) an assassin's bullets put an end to the life of a courageous idealist. When spoken to about the dangers and the risks of his work, Sean's reply was always the same: "While my heart beats I have to do what I think I can do—and that is to help those who are less fortunate than me." Sean, the young man with the bright smile, the man of courage, commitment, honesty, gave his life working to improve people's expectations and future prospects, so as to restore their dignity and hope. The world needs more people like Sean who are committed to creating hope and a future, especially for those most in need.



Another saintly role model of what it means to answer God's call to be "good Christians, and upright citizens," was Chiara Badano. She was born in Sassello, Italy, on October 29, 1971. She was an only child, and received a Christian education from her family. Chiara was rich with talents, beautiful, sportive, and she had many friends. She became a member of the Focolare Catholic Movement at the age of nine years old. During this time, she had an encounter with God that changed her life forever. Although she encountered God at a very young age, she experienced a great union with God and was not afraid to accept his call for her life. At 17 years old, she was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer. She



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entrusted herself to God completely, even in the most difficult moments. Anyone who came near to her would say that through her smile she transmitted serenity and joy. She would always say, "For you, Jesus, if you want it, I want it too!" She died on October 7th, 1990, and her testimony of faith and joy continues to inspire many young people to not be afraid to live out their faith, even in tough circumstances. Blessed Chiara Bandano, pray for us!

Leader:

Ask your young people what struck them about Sean and Chiara. Who do they think in their life is an example of a "Good Christian and Upright Citizen."

Call to Action

We are all called to be "good Christians and upright citizens." Although not all of us may go to Africa to serve the poor as Sean Devereux did, or live out our faith in the toughest of circumstances, there is something each of us can do to be of service to others in our home, school, and community today. Will you volunteer at a soup kitchen? Help tutor or mentor a younger student? Start an initiative to clean up your local park or beach? Collect food or clothes for those in need? Smile at those you meet? Sit with someone at lunch who seems to be alone? What will you do today to be a "good Christian?"

Leader:

Encourage your young people to take a picture of themselves during the month of September being "Good Christians and Upright Citizens." Use the hashtags:

#BeSaints

#IAmSalesian

#BeGoodChristians

#BeUprightCitizens

and post to our Instagram page @sym_USAwest. Have them encourage other young people to do the same.



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Leader:

Invite the young people to say the prayer together. Encourage them to meditate and pray to help guide them to hear the call of God and to ask God to give them strength to be good Christians and upright citizens today and every day.

Closing Prayer

God Our Father,

You who have called us to be "good Christians and upright citizens,"

Open our hearts to Your Spirit of Love, that we may be moved to act for the common good of all, recognizing in those we meet, an opportunity for an encounter with You, and an opportunity to build a better world.

Open our ears, O God, to hear the call you give to each one of us today;

Open our eyes to see the needs of our world and our society;

Open our mouths to speak out against injustice with love;

Open our hands to reach out to our marginalized sisters and brothers in our communities and in the world.

Inspire in us an unceasing commitment to be responsible and upright citizens of the world and give us the strength and perseverance we need to help build Your Kingdom as good Christians wherever we are.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary Our Mother and Help.

Amen.