Who are
The Salesians?

The Salesians are a modern religious society of Priests and Brothers, founded in 1859 by St. John Bosco. His concern for youngsters who needed help and encouragement began early in his life, and he eventually established schools and youth centers which grew and multiplied. The Salesians — the Society of St. Francis of Sales, named after St. John's favorite saint — were organized and the new order quickly spread from continent to continent. St. John Bosco died in 1888 and was canonized in 1934 as the Apostle of Youth.

Today his Salesian sons — some 20,000 strong — continue his work in over 80 countries around the world.

What do we do?

Our principal apostolate is with youth. Our mission in life is working with and for young people . . . in boy's clubs, academic and technical high schools, summer camps, retreat houses, guidance centers, orphanages . . . wherever boys are to be found.

Unlike other orders whose apostolate has changed with varying conditions the Salesians have always been — and always will be — youth oriented. We're trying to prepare youngsters today for the world that awaits them tomorrow. Not an easy task in these times, but one which we welcome.

Salesian Priests and Brothers also staff parishes . . . work with the press, films, film strips . . . and, on voluntary basis, serve in many lands as missionaries.

OUR MISSION IN LIFE IS TO BRING AID AND GUIDANCE TO THE YOUNG . . . THE NEEDY . . . AND THE FORGOTTEN

The methods
of St. John Bosco

In the beginning, St. John Bosco was concerned with the hundreds of homeless boys who were often hungry and utterly without hope. But giving them bread, he reasoned, would be only a temporary solution — there had to be some way to help them help themselves. The answer came to him: by learning a skill that would last them all their lives. Education was the keynote — for what good is one meal today when one must think of all the tomorrows?

He believed that a program of play, learn and pray would help make useful citizens of the world. He crowded out evil with reason, religion and kindness in an atmosphere of family feeling. That he succeeded is very evident today in the many Salesians who carry on his work and the number of boys who have benefited from the Salesian experience.