**How to become a Salesian**

* **Minimum Requirements**

If you are thinking of joining the Salesians then:

- You must be a practicing Catholic, living a good moral life and not over 25 years old;

- Those from **Papua New Guinea** must have a Grade 12 certificate with a minimum mark of ‘C’ in all subjects;

- Those from **Solomon Islands** must have a Form 7 certificate with a minimum mark of ‘6’ in all subjects;

- Those from **Vanuatu** must have a Grade 13 certificate with a minimum mark in all subjects which qualify for tertiary studies.

**Tips to help you discern your vocation**

You may wonder if God is calling you to be a Salesian brother or priest. Often it takes time to discover God’s plan for you. Here are some tips to help you discover God’s call for you.

* **Prayer**

It is import to acquire the habit of daily prayer. Pray daily to God and ask his help to discover his plan for you. It would be very helpful if you read the Bible daily. Listen to God as he talks to you through His Word.

* **Sacraments**

The Sacraments especially Reconciliation and Eucharist are channels of God’s grace to us. Approach regularly Reconciliation, like once every month, and participate at Mass and receive Holy Communion at least on Sundays. Daily Mass is a beautiful practice that will bring abundant fruits in your spiritual life too.

* **Purity**

Youth is the stage of your life when you begin to discover your own identity as a teenager. You begin to discover too your attraction towards the opposite sex. This is a normal feeling. You might be invited to parties or even for a date. Well, go ahead and enjoy being a young person. However, if you are thinking of a religious vocation you will have to exert special effort to keep yourself pure before God’s eyes. Pre-marital sex and pornography are contrary to purity. Dependence on alcohol and drugs, buai and cigarette often lead to these and other vices too. Don Bosco insisted that those who wish to become Salesians must have a well-founded hope, with God’s help, of keeping themselves pure.

* **Youth Group**

Youth groups provide a unique opportunity for you to develop interpersonal relationships as well as your capacity to work in a team. In your school, parish or community there are youth groups that cater to your interest. Your involvement in a youth group also helps you develop self-confidence and personal responsibility. Do not hesitate to join a youth group!

* **Community Service**

A vocation is a call to service. If you find joy in helping and serving others, then this could be an indication that God is calling you. Get involved in your local community or parish. They provide unique opportunities for you to serve others especially those most in need.

* **Have a Guide**

In order to help you discover God’s call for you it is important to find a mature adult who could guide you. Any Salesian is always available to accompany you in discovering God’s call for you. Do not hesitate to talk to your guide about your plan in life or even your doubts or fears. It would be good to meet your guide regularly, like monthly.

* **Mary**

Don Bosco had a special veneration to our Lady under the title ‘help of Christians’. Mary was his mother, teacher and guide throughout her life. Ask our Lady to guide you in discovering God’s call for you especially through the recitation of the Rosary.

* **Prayer to Discern One’s Vocation**

*Lord of the Harvest,*

*help me to discover your call to me.*

 *Open my heart to great ideals, to great things.*

*Show me the road You want me to walk –
to fulfillment, to happiness, to holiness.*

*And if You are calling me
to be a Salesian*

*give me the gift of courage to respond to your call
and the grace to begin even now
to prepare myself for the challenge
of a life spent for you*

*at the service of the young.*

*Mother Mary,
intercede for me so that I may cooperate
with your Son in building your reign of mercy
and truth, of justice and peace.*

*St. John Bosco, guide me in my vocational discernment. Amen*.