



# *Nouvelles Salésiennes* *Salesian News*

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## TORONTO ON

Those who read the last issue of *Salesian Echoes* (Dec. 06) may remember having seen a photo of Fr. Occhio with Fr. Paul Bédard who has since returned to Marian Shrine, N.Y., after helping us at St. Benedict's during Fr. Occhio's hip surgery and recovery. Because of the 2 canes in that photo Fr. Occhio received the name of "2 cane Fr. Occhio." It was Fr. Kelly who came up with that name after lending Fr. Occhio a big cowboy hat and asking him to pose for that photo that reminded him of a cowboy on the alert with 2 pistols. Only God knows why Fr. Kelly was so jolly interested in this little project but... maybe it's subconsciously linked to the fact that, going back just 4 generations, the famous cowboy Jesse James was actually a relative of Fr. Kelly himself, on his mother's side of the family (Howard)! Mysteries of genes in one's family tree!!!

Talking of family trees, Fr. Paul Bédard's ancestors were among the very first French immigrants who settled in Canada at the very beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They soon became prosperous farmers, the smell of whose pigs was so strong that a civic ordinance was actually issued against them. So, the Bédards have the unique distinction of being the very first citizens of *La Nouvelle France* (and probably of the Americas and maybe of the whole world!) to make people aware of the necessity of making laws to protect our human habitat! No wonder Fr. Paul has such a soft spot for Canada!

While Fr. Paul was with us a certain "Myriam Bédard" made national headlines because of her alleged criminal activities. But certainly she cannot possibly be related to Fr. Paul!

During Advent we had numerous confessions in our church and at our 4 schools, two exceptionally enjoyable evenings of recitals from our Youth and Seniors choirs, truly great parties for our Savio Club and C.I.C. members, 160 big packages brought to poor families... For Evening Prayer we sang parts of the so-called "Christmas Novena."

The week before Christmas we had the funeral of a 6-year-old boy. About 300 of his school companions were present. During the homily a little detail was mentioned that impressed all. The day before dying he had been here for Mass during which he kept looking and looking with an exceptionally keen interest at our statue of Mary Help of Christians and stained-glass windows. In hindsight the mother reflected that maybe it was all a kind of personal *Au revoir* to Jesus, Mary and parish community. R.I.P.

For our Christmas dinner at Salesian Residence, we welcomed the Salesian Sisters in Toronto as well as Fr. Drago and Fr. Marjan Lamovšek who had just arrived from Slovenia to help at our parish in Hamilton for the next six months.

Right after Christmas, Bro. Bernie, P. Soccia, Mark and Monica Sutton joined Fr. Mike Pace's group in Montreal on their way to the *RISE UP* Conference in preparation for the upcoming International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City: a most uplifting experience under every aspect.

From Dec. 27 to Jan. 1, the Salesians in Toronto were delighted to host the confreres from Salesian High, New Rochelle, N.Y., and Frs. Damir and Ivan from Washington, D.C. They enjoyed their Christmas break visiting us and Toronto, and we were just delighted with their company. Our parishioners will never forget their devout participation in our liturgy including their homilies

and their singing of hymns in Vietnamese, Spanish and Croatian!

On Dec. 29 we had the funeral of a Hungarian woman. When the relatives heard that Fr. Occhio had served at St. Emeric's in Edmonton, they asked him to say a few words in Hungarian during the homily. He was very happy to oblige. And so, to them and to you *Isten Aldjon meg!* (God bless you!)

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## SHERBROOKE QC

Au début de décembre, le conseil provincial s'est réuni au Centre des Jeunes à Montréal avec un ordre du jour plutôt chargé. Le jour précédent, la commission du Chapitre Provincial s'y était réunie pour définir le processus et l'organisation du Chapitre en avril; il se tiendra à Pierrefonds durant toute la semaine de Pâques. Cette commission présidée par le modérateur du CP, le P. Mike Pace, est composée du P. Trottier et du Fr. Dubé; le Provincial y participe aussi. Le P. Trottier avait pris occasion de ce séjour à Montréal pour célébrer le baptême du petit Noah à Charlemagne, enfant d'un ancien serviteur de messe de Ste-Claire, Michel Melo (*Amis de Dominique*).

La fête de l'Immaculée Conception a été soulignée comme dans toute maison salésienne, car cette date marque un événement-fondateur de l'œuvre salésienne : la rencontre de Don Bosco avec le jeune Barthélemy Garelli en 1841. Lors de sa récollection mensuelle, la communauté a repris et complété la 1<sup>ère</sup> des 5 fiches proposées en vue des Chapitres provincial et général : *Retour à Don Bosco*. Pour retourner à Don Bosco et s'inspirer de lui, il faut d'abord le connaître. Adapter le charisme à notre temps sans le connaître dans son origine risquerait certaines déviations et pourrait être cause d'infidélité et d'improvisation gratuite. Un religieux d'une autre Congrégation me faisait remarquer un jour qu'il lui semblait que les salésiens donnaient trop de place dans leur spiritualité à leur fondateur. Cet accent n'est pas un caprice ni une hantise historique. Il en va de la fidélité et de l'authenticité du charisme. Il est vrai aussi qu'il faut faire la part des choses et respecter les priorités: c'est Jésus Christ qui est au centre de

notre foi et de notre passion apostolique. Mais quelle étrangeté y aurait-il à s'efforcer de vivre Son évangile à la façon de Don Bosco, au service des jeunes? À notre rencontre des salésiens coopérateurs ce mois-ci, nous avons visionné, puis échangé sur le film de Don Bosco, celui de 1988 avec Ben Gazzara.

Nous avons célébré notre Noël communautaire le 21 décembre, puisque à Noël quelques-uns seraient ailleurs, dans leur famille ou faisant du ministère. Pendant le congé, nous avons accueilli les PP. Luc, de Montréal, et George, de Toronto, venus visiter famille et amis. La veille du Jour de l'An, nous avons aussi accueilli la famille du P. Alain à la Résidence DB. Ainsi la transition à l'An 2007 s'est faite dans un grand mouvement de joie et de chants.

À chacun de nos lecteurs- confrères d'ici et d'ailleurs, membres de la Famille salésienne et amis- nos **Meilleurs Vœux de Nouvel An**; santé, paix et joie du Seigneur Jésus.

**To our Anglophone confreres - y a los hermanos salesianos de la Region Interamerica:**

**Best Wishes for a Year 2007 filled with health, joy and the peace of the God Child of Bethlehem.**

**Vuestros hermanos salesianos canadienses les desean un Año 2007 muy feliz y santo y muy prospero en todo sentido: salud, paz y la alegría del Niño Jesús, Salvador del mundo.**

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## SURREY, BC

The Advent Season began with an Open House Sunday, organized by the Welcoming Committee on Dec. 3. It was held at the youth center in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast. Various booths of all the parish organizations, plus Advent fun activities for the children were held. The recent snow storm dampened some of the attendance, but considering everything, the event was a real learning treat for new parishioners and families.

That day had Fr. Jan and Bro. Steve fly to Winnipeg, Man., to attend Bro. Jerry's sister's (Mrs. Rosemary Harper) wake that evening, and her funeral Mass the following morning at St. Alphonsus Church, where she and brother grew up, received their sacraments and schooling. Bro. Bernie flew in





**BONNE, HEUREUSE ET SAINTE ANNÉE!  
FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!**