

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Happy Birthday, Don Bosco!

With today's celebration of our father and founder's birthday we launch the second year of our preparation for his 200th in 2015. This year will be about getting closer to Don Bosco *the educator*. His 9th successor, Fr. Pascual Chavez, suggests that of the three years of preparation, "this year is the most demanding." Demanding because we are being asked to make Don Bosco's experience as *educator* our starting point and then embark on a journey of truly making the preventive system both our method of pastoral ministry with the young and our spirituality as well.

As today the whole Salesian Family embarks on the journey of deeper knowledge and imitation of Don Bosco the educator this second year of preparation for the bicentenary of his birth, yesterday a very special group of young men also embarked on an intense journey. I refer to the six young men who last night, in a simple ceremony at St. Joseph's, were welcomed as novices for the two US provinces of the 2012-2013 class.

Together with our own Jhoni Chamorro from this province, there are five novices from New Rochelle: Lenny Carlino, Steve Eguino, Matt Marchand, Mark O'Dea, and Craig Spence. We welcome them to the West and

we thank God and Mary for the opportunity to accompany and support another group of novices toward their first profession.

One of the prayers in this simple ceremony could well apply to all of us in the Salesian Family this year. The prayer asks blessings on these new novices who are beginning a novitiate year to prepare themselves "to approach young people with the heart of Christ and the educational method of Don Bosco." Whatever our way of belonging to the Salesian movement, we are all in training to approach young people with the heart of Christ and with the educational method of Don Bosco.

When Don Bosco speaks about education as "a matter of the heart," that's what he means. His educational method is the method of approaching people with the heart of Christ! Reason, religion, and loving kindness are the strategies of Christ's heart that give substance and depth to the Salesian way of approaching everyone, especially the young!

My dear fellow Salesians of Don Bosco West, the best birthday gift we can give Don Bosco is to make his educational method our own. And that does not mean becoming an educational technician, but an educational *saint*. While our novices begin their demanding year of getting ready to take vows as Salesian pastors and educators of youth, may all the rest of us accept the demands of spending this year growing in precisely that kind of holiness, the best gift we can offer to the young.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

August 2012

- 16 Driver Training Class, Richmond
- 16-18 Provincial Council Meeting, San Francisco
- 19 Parish Farewell for Fr Tuan Nguyen, St. Luke's, Stockton
- 20 Community Meeting on School Documents, DBTI
- 21 Installation of Fr. Chinh Nguyen, DBTI Director
First Profession, Bro. Peter Duoc Le, SDB
- 22 Office Day
- 23-9/8 Family Visit, NJ

Please Pray for our Sick

Mrs. Elizabeth Alvarez
Home Hospice Care

Bro. Tony Freitas, SDB
hospitalized for breathing problems

Consuelo Farias de Sanchez
sister of Fr. Joe Farias aged 85, heart attack intensive care, Mexico

Dona Bucilla
Salesian Cooperator, Columbus, OH



Novice Induction

By Novice John Langan



Recently I was blessed to do something that most Salesians do not get an opportunity to do. As I finish off my novitiate year I was able to participate in the induction ceremony of the new novices as they begin their novitiate year. On Wednesday August 15, 2012 the provinces of St Philip and St Andrew inducted their next group of novices at the chapel of St. Joseph's Youth Renewal Center in Rosemead. There were six novices in total. **Stephen Eguino, Matt Marchand, Lenny Carlino, Craig Spence, and Mark O'Dea** from the Eastern Province and **Jhoni Chamorro** from the Western Province. **Fr. Tim Ploch** presided at the ceremony and imparted words of wisdom to the novices as he handed them over to the care of their Novice Master **Fr. Bill Keane**. The Salesian Family came out in force to welcome the new novices with Salesians from

May God continue to bless and to guide these new novices as they take another step in their faith journey.

various communities, Cooperators, students from Don Bosco Tech, and family and friends all showing up to participate in the evening ceremony. After the ceremony a dinner was put on for all to enjoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the western province for your support and prayers during this novitiate year. As my brothers and I prepare for our first profession we have many good memories to look back on from this year. We head east knowing that we have a lot more brothers and friends over here on the west coast. Be assured of our prayers and we will continue to be praying for you as well.

My St. Luke's Camp Experience

By Mckenna Brown

Going into the first training for St. Luke's first summer camp, I expected to participate in one week out of the three weeks of camp because it was summer and I didn't predict that spending three weeks of getting up early and dealing with rambunctious children would be fun at all. But as I went through the training, something told me that I should do all three weeks. I debated it and finally decided that it would be good to put on a resume and better than doing nothing during the day.

Little did I know that it would be one of the highlights of my summer or that I would enjoy waking up early in the morning knowing that I would see the smiling faces of every single child there. Also, my reason for doing the camp completely changed. Instead, I wanted to do camp so that the kids could have a summer filled with fun while learning about their faith and being safe. Secondly, that no matter what was going on in their homes they could have their camp family to rely on and have a fun place to forget about anything that was bothering them.

In this camp family, lifelong friends were made, not only among the kids, but also with the counselors. Being together practically everyday, even on weekends sometimes, for three weeks straight, you begin to form a bond with the people around you. By planning skits, planning talks about our theme, or helping with snack, you learn how to work with your peers and how to be productive with the time you are given. But that is not all I learned at camp. I also learned a very important trait when working with kids, patience! Without patience no one would have made it through camp. I also learned how to teach and discipline the kids when they got out of hand, but also how to act like a kid and play right along side them.

Our absolute main objective for camp was for every child to have fun, which meant



that the events that were planned had to be fun for kids ages five to thirteen. I think we accomplished that. From the skits to the art projects to games that were planned, there were positive comments from the kids about everything. In fact, one of the kids wanted to skip his family trip to Hawaii in order to go to camp another week! This being our first year of camp, having the kids enjoy their experience meant the world to everyone who put time into making the camp happen.

Starting out camp I, along with Claire and Derrik, was set to be the head counselors of the first and second graders. They were wonderful kids with a variety of personalities, from Laine who was calm and creative to Adren who had never ending energy and a huge imagination. All the kids will forever have a special place in my heart. Seeing them laugh at the skits or seeing their faces light up when they saw the animals at the zoo or all the wonders at the science museum are the moments that I will always remember.

The hardest part of camp was definitely saying goodbye to the kids, hoping that I would see them at mass on Sunday or at least that they would return to camp the following year. After only three weeks you would be surprised how attached you get to the kids and how attached they get to you.

This camp was an amazing experience for me that I never expected that I would enjoy. Honestly, if I wouldn't have felt a strong pull from the Holy Spirit to be a counselor at summer camp, I wouldn't have done it. But now this will be something I look forward to every summer. Knowing that I contributed to making these kids' summer more fun while they enjoyed learning about their faith was priceless for me.

Camp St. Francis

By David Sanabria, Cooperator and Animator of the Salesian youth movement from Seville Spain



In spite of the distance those four weeks were like being at home. We were able to breathe first hand the Salesian Youth Spirituality together with more than seventy boys each week. For me it was like a spring which poured hope and strength into my vocation as a Salesian Cooperator.

This adventure began in Spain several months before the camp season, when we received the news that we could be camp counselors and be part of the camp experience. From that moment on we looked forward to the first day with excitement. The welcome and hospitality of the SDBs as well as the Salesian Youth Movement of this province throughout the month could not have been better. It was an experience to see, live, share and feel. **See** the beauty of the place and the grandeur of God which surrounded us; **live** the authentic spirit of Don Bosco among the young; **share** the unforgettable moments of play, brotherhood and prayer; **feel** the warm embrace which God gives to the young through the commitment of so many young volunteers.

It was a true gift from God. It was also an opportunity to know the Salesian family

in this Province, my family; Salesians who gave witness, who were signs and bearers of God's love for the young. Brothers who were deeply committed, overflowing with vitality and joy, who knew how to share their affection at every moment. There is no way to express the pride we felt in sharing this experience with them.

This month of August we will celebrate the religious profession of four novices, courageous and large-hearted men who also shared this experience together with us. Priests, Brothers, Deacons from the Dominican Republic, committed young people from Spain, England, Mexico and the United States.... A closely knit team for a perfect camp experience.

We are so grateful that there is no way to express it. So once again I thank you for this great gift which the Province of St. Andrew bestowed on us. I sign off with my gaze turned towards Mary Our Help and our Mother. At the end of each day we prayed to the Virgin. Devotion to Mary is one of the firm pillars of Camp St. Francis. Thank you, Mother, because as Don Bosco would say: *"She has done it all."*

On April 10, 1886 Don Bosco had his last missionary dream in Barcelona, my home city: *"He saw an immense crowd of young people running towards him and saying: 'We have been waiting for you for such a long time that we will not let you go free.' One of them said to him: 'What do you see?' to which Don Bosco replied: 'I see mountains, oceans and hills. I see a sign that reads: Valparaiso, another which reads Santiago and some children reading Peking. A young girl said: Draw a line from Santiago to Peking through the heart of Africa and you will have an idea of what your Salesians are expected to do. However, in order to accomplish this the Salesians must cultivate devotion to Mary' "*

This summer my wife Montaña and I had the opportunity of spending the summer at Camp St. Francis in California as volunteers. My first thought was: *How far has the work of that dreamer reached? Only God can be behind this!* That vision that Don Bosco saw in his dream, that line which he drew with his zeal for leading the young to God... became the path which we followed all the way to this other corner of the world, on the Pacific coast in Aptos.



Reflections

By Juan Carlos Montenegro



My dear Salesian Family!

Greetings from the Central Permanent Formation House in Ecuador, as you may know I am here taking an intense seminar on the “Theology of the Mission”. I would like to share with you some of the learning that I have received this last week. Something that really has got my attention is the fact that Missions is Youth Ministry and Youth Ministry is Missions, and for the good of our young people we have to continue working together.

But before I go into this, I would like to share with you: who is here and what we do. In this seminar we have 22 people from different countries in our continent. We have people from Central America (Guatemala), Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and USA. Our daily activities start at 7:00 AM with Mass and finish at 7:00

PM with dinner... a whole day of learning.

In this week we have been talking about Culture, History, Evangelization, Inculturation and

Revelation among others. However, one of the main topics that we spent a lot of time with is “inculturation”. According to Paulo Suess, inculturation is to try to assimilate the cultural expressions of a different social group, with the finality/purpose to share the Gospel”. This made me think a lot about the youth culture in our province. Do we know its culture? Do we know what our young people like? Do we know what our young people are looking for? Do we know them?

If the answer is YES, are we intentional helping them to be aware of God’s presence in their lives? Are we intentional about inviting them to follow Christ? This is a basic evangelization process. Now if the answer is NO, our best way to get to know them is by our presence, being with them, spending time with them. As Don Bosco said “if you want

them to love what you love, you need to love what they love” and this is the easiest way to explain what inculturation is.

While I am writing this short essay I also realize that we have many people who may be reading this who are seniors. We still need you, your knowledge and presence is welcome among our young people. But if you can be present physically you definitely can be present spiritually. Please pray for our young people, for their Christian vocation for their lives.

I hope this short essay helps you to think about our young culture, as this formation seminar has done to me.

Hopefully next week I will share something else.

I hope you have a good week.

Juan Carlos

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

Salesians of St. John Bosco
1100 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: (626) 280-8622 #35
E-mail: intouch@salesiansc.org
Weekly publications will be distributed on Thursdays. Please submit news for publication by Friday of each week.
Send contributions to:
intouch@salesiansc.org.

Can you believe?

By: Fr. Bob Stein, SDB



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We are in the middle of August and are starting another school year. It was a year ago when we thought this project would be completed and the candidates would be in their own home.

Well, it won't be long now until De Sales Hall is ready for them and functioning again as a house of formation.

August 13, 2012 is an amazing day! The first thing this morning Mitsubishi was on the job site with their flat-bed truck and fork-lift unloading the new elevator parts, car, motors, etc. Everything was still crated with "Salesian Residence" on each crate just as they were shipped from Japan about 8 months ago. After unloading the truck, the men began setting up the scaffolding in the elevator shaft. The next job is to attach the t-rail to the walls. These rails act as tracks for the elevator car. Mitsubishi has estimated four weeks to complete the fabrication and pass inspection.

The patio area (around the avocado tree) is ready for concrete. The concrete pad will be poured on Wednesday.

The drainage pipes and the catch basins (CB) are in basketball (half) court. Wednesday the concrete will also be poured for the CB. The surface water will empty into the City's storm drains on Bellflower Blvd. Six CBs are being installed now with more to follow.

The 5/8" gypsum board was hung on the walls and ceiling in the first floor hall way, chapel, lobby and dining room. After the inspection of the ceiling, another sheet of 5/8" gypsum board will be hung for fire protection.

The new hand rails for the stair wells have been ordered.

After two hours on the phone with Verizon, they assigned De Sales Hall 6 new business phone numbers. These new phone numbers will become official once they are installed and tested.

The electricians are busy connecting miles of wires to the circuit panel on each floor.

PICTURE CAPTIONS: 1 Drainage pipes - 2 Rented power generator for Mitsubishi use while fabricating the elevator - 3 Scaffolding in the elevator shaft - 4 The crated elevator equipment - 5 Electrician, Myung connecting the wires to the new electric panels - 6 The carpenter Martin places the CB grate ring on the concrete form

Immigration Reform

On August 15, 2015, young undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children and who are 15-30 may begin applying for relief from deportation and a two-year renewable work permit under the deferred action program.

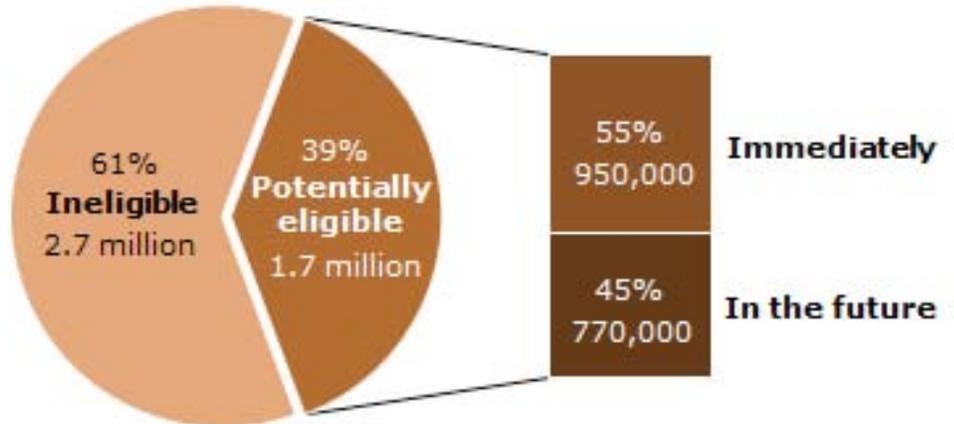
This would allow thousands of young immigrants also known as dreamers who will graduate or have graduated from college to enter the workforce and use their degrees. This unprecedented directive is a beginning step towards just

immigration reform. In line with our Province Organic Plan Priority 5, Salesian communities are encouraged to learn how they can continue to support our undocumented immigrant young people and their families

For more information regarding Consideration of Deferred Ac-

Figure 1

Unauthorized Immigrants Ages 30 and Under Eligible for Deportation Relief



Note: There are 4.4 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. ages 30 and under. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates 1.7 million could potentially be eligible for relief from deportation.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center estimates based on residual methodology applied to the March Supplement to the 2010 March Current Population Survey.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

tion for Childhood Arrivals, visit www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals

Catholic Charities of San Francisco will be conducting workshops to assist with document preparation and to review the guidelines for deferred action. For more information regarding these workshops, contact (415) 972-

1315 or dreamers@cccyo.org

St. Mary's Parish Youth Ministry will be sponsoring a forum on August 24 at the Salesian Family Youth Center from 7-9pm for all who are interested in learning more about the deferred action process and assistance in preparation of documents. (See flyer)



Are you interested in going to...

World Youth Day 2013!



Contact the **Province Salesian Youth Ministry Office** via e-mail
at:

sdbyouth@salesianym.org

Don't miss this great opportunity!!

(please have your name included in the e-mail)

The Salesian Family the Genius of Don Bosco

By Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB

The Seedling Becomes a Tree

In October of 1844, just before moving to Valdocco Don Bosco had another dream which seemed to last the night. It began in a similar way as the Dream at Nine with a field filled with animals. This time the Beautiful Lady came dressed as a shepherdess who acted as his guide. There were many symbols in the dream that Don Bosco did not understand. His guide told him not to be concerned as he would understand later. Two of the scenes that stood out were that the field where they were standing was filled with a magnificent Church and many buildings, and that most of the animals had changed into lambs and some of the lambs into shepherds who took care of the sheep.

The Wandering Oratory finally found a permanent place in the Valdocco district just outside the city of Turin. In April, 1846, with the rental of a shed from Francis Pinardi the Oratory had the beginnings of a permanent home. The seedling which Don Bosco had been carrying around for the past five years could finally be planted where it could grow. He had seen this field in the dream two years earlier. The Pinardi house itself would give way to a

magnificent basilica to honor his guide, Mary the Mother of Help of Christians.

Over the next ten years the Oratory would grow exponentially compared to the first five years. The shed was dug out to raise the ceiling and it became the First Chapel which was used for catechism lessons, religious services and even the celebration of Confirmation. In 1847 Don Bosco and Mama Margaret took in a few stray homeless boys and the boarding school was begun. He rented rooms in the Pinardi house as they were vacated until he convinced Pinardi to sell the whole building and property.

Now that he had rooms he begins to offer night classes to the older boys in reading, arithmetic and music.

Catechism classes for every age group are the staple of his work. In the reading class rather than use the standard primer it is from the elementary Catechism that they learn to read. In June of 1852 Don Bosco begins construction on the second church of his dream, the Church of St. Francis of Sales. In May 1847 Don Bosco founds the St. Aloysius Sodality for the more committed

boys. From them he hopes to attract young men who will help him. In December 1847 He sends Fr. Borel to open a second Oratory, named for St. Aloysius Gonzaga, across town near Porta Nuova with the proceeds of the sale of a house belonging to his friend Fr. Moretta. Fr. Hyacinth Carpano was the Director.

Between 1853 and 1863 Don Bosco builds new living quarters for the students and artisans with workshops for carpenters, printers, book binders, shoemakers and metal workers. He writes books and gives them to the people.

Don Bosco is flourishing in spite of hardships with the faithful help of friends, volunteers and some young people.

17. Ibid: Memoirs Ch. 54, Pinardi wanted 80,000 franks, Don Bosco got Pinardi to settle on 30,000 franks. Payment was to be in two weeks' time and in cash. Mr. Pinardi also wanted an expensive piece of jewelry for his wife. Don Bosco of course did not have the money; however friends came, unsolicited to his rescue: Countess Casazza-Ricarti with 10,000 franks. A Rosminian Priest invested 20,000 franks, and Chevalier Cotta with 3,000 franks.

Foro Comunitario Sobre Accion Deferida

Community Forum on Deferred Action

VENGA Y INFORMESE SOBRE LA NUEVA POLITICA ANUNCIADA POR
EL PRESIDENTE OBAMA QUE AFECTA A LOS JOVENES INDOCUMENTADOS.

Abogados de Inmigración estarán presentes para
responder preguntas que usted pueda tener.

Agosto 24, 2012
7-9pm

Salesian Family Youth Center
2228 E. 4th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033



COME AND INFORM YOURSELF ABOUT THE NEW POLICY CHANGE

ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA THAT AFFECTS UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH.

Immigration Attorneys will be present to help
answer questions you may have.



