

Provincial's Letter

“Don Bosco is a man of today, who responded not only to the events of the historical period in which he lived, but also those of the present day. One of the things in which he showed himself a forerunner was the ability to understand the importance of the education of young people, and to see that this be offered with care, affection, hospitality, and close relationships.”

Bishop José Manuel Lorca of Cartagena

October 25, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

I write this letter to you at the midway point of the InterAmerica Region provincials' meeting. This gathering has been amazing!

First of all it is our privilege as the Salesian Family in Don Bosco West to host the meeting of provincials this year. We hold the meetings at the St. Joseph Renewal Center as well as our prayers and Masses. The provincials are housed in the local Doubletree Hotel, carried back and forth by van. The hearty ones walk.

Our meals have really special moments of community. Each day the midday meal, served at 1:00PM, is prepared and served by a different group of the Salesian Family. Each day for supper, served at 7:30PM, we are hosted by one of the local communities nearby. The first night the novices themselves prepared a typically American hamburger bar with all the fixings.

A special feature of these meetings is to have with us the presence of the Rector

Major's Vicar, Fr. Adriano Bregolin. He personally represents Don Bosco's successor among us. He has kept us up to date on Fr. Pascual's health and arranged a moment when by Skype we could all give a greeting to the Rector Major and receive a message from him. Bro. Jean Paul Mueller, Economer General, was also to be with us here in the province, but at the last moment had to remain in Rome to attend to some pressing legal problems.

Our first day was a full day of retreat, led by Bishop Alex Salazar, auxiliary of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He opened the eyes of my brother American provincials to the real situation of Hispanic immigrants here in the US. He spoke from the heart, celebrated a penitential service with us, presided at our Eucharist, and stayed the whole day, enjoying a "California Burger" at the novices' burger bar.

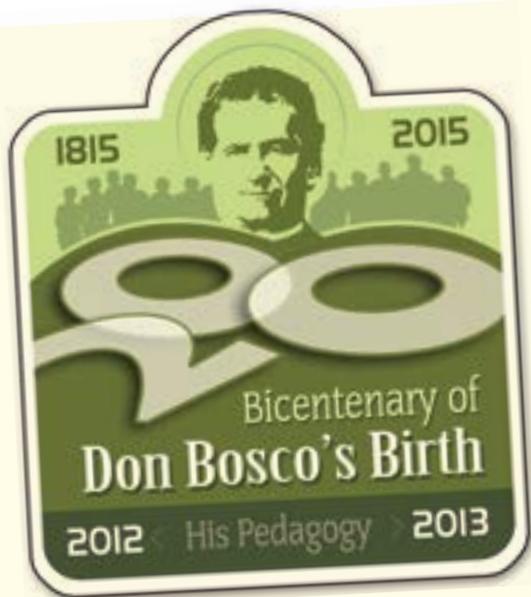
With Fr. Adriano we reflected on the Synod of Bishops in this Year of Faith. We have studied the Letter on the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family. We reviewed the question of religious discipline as a fruit of be-

ing Christ's disciples in this region. And there is so much more to come before the week ends.

I will stop here with a heartfelt expression of gratitude to the groups who prepared our main meals, to the communities that hosted us for supper, to the St. Joseph's community who opened their doors to us for the meeting. Most of all, though, I want to thank the planning committee: JC Montenegro, Fr. Joseph Matthew, Miriam Rodriguez, Bro. Al Vu. They thought of and planned every detail to make this visit of the provincials of our region to our province a wonderful experience. I am so thankful to them for making my job as host so much easier. And I am so proud to showcase to my brother provincials this great province of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB
Provincial



**“Rejoice in the Lord
always. I will say it again:**

Rejoice!”

Returning to the young with greater preparedness

Fidelity to our mission then, to have force, must be put in contact with the crux of culture today, with the matrices of today’s mentality and behaviour. We are faced with truly huge challenges demanding serious analysis, pertinent critical observation, in-depth cultural comparison, a capacity to partake of the circumstances psychologically and existentially. So, just to limit ourselves to a few questions:

- a- *Who exactly are the young to whom we personally and in community “consecrate” our life?*
- b- *How professional are we pastorally, at the level of theoretical reflection on educational programmes and at the level of pastoral practice?*
- c- *Responsibility for education today has to be collective, a group effort, participative. So what is our particular “hook” into the “network of relationships” in the area and beyond it where we live with our young people?*
- d- *If the Church finds itself unequipped today, faced with the young, might it not also be the case for Salesians and the Salesian Family today?*

Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB
STRENNA 2013

**PROVINCIAL'S
CALENDAR**

Year
of Faith

October 2012

- 21-28 InterAmerica Region
Provincials Meeting, Rosemead
- 29 Drive to San Francisco
- 30-31 Office Days

November 2012

- 1 Members Meeting,
St. Francis High School, Watsonville
- 2 Review Board Meeting
- 3-5 Office Days
- 6 CMSM Region 6 Meeting with
Archbishop Gomez, LA
- 7-9 Provincial Council Meeting,
Camp St. Francis

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK**



Bro. Tony Freitas, SDB
hospitalized



Don Rua “the living Rule”.

Don Rua: fidelity to consecrated life “for a whole life-time”.

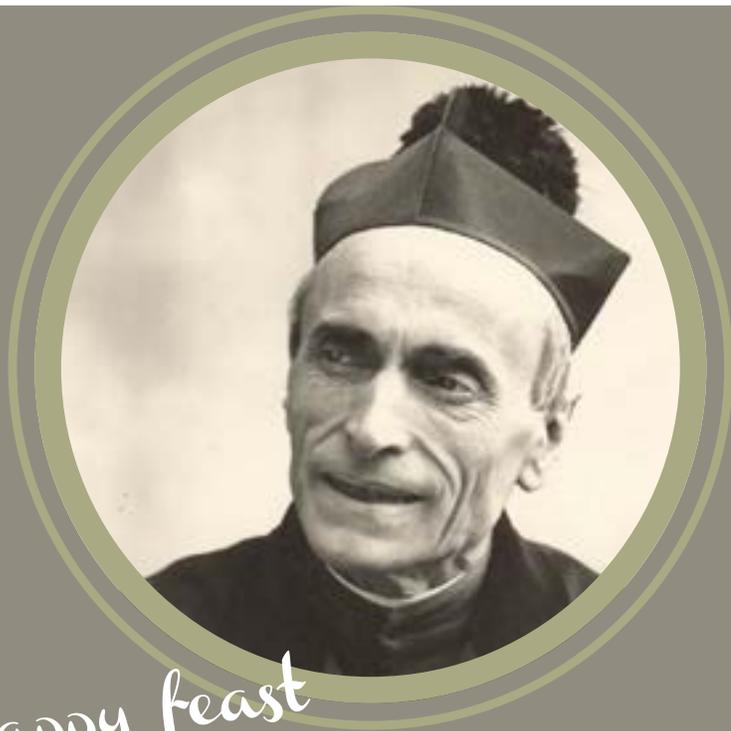
Don Rua “Successor of Don Bosco, that is continuer: son, disciple, imitator...”

Don Rua: “the evangeliser of youth”.

Don Rua “the most faithful son of Don Bosco”

Don Rua is really qualified as the first continuer of the example and the work of Don Bosco.

Almighty and merciful God, you placed in the footsteps of Saint John Bosco Blessed Michael Rua, who imitated his example, inherited his spirit and spread his works; now that with his beatification you have raised him to the glory of the altars, be pleased to multiply his patronage to those who invoke him and to hasten his canonisation.



happy feast

Blessed

Michael Rua

“Successor of Don Bosco: son, disciple, apostle”

Oct. 29



“More, that vocational campaigns be put into action: families, parishes, all our schools should be able to create a pastoral microclimate where they can grow and ripen vocations, forming a genuine culture of vocation in which LIFE is conceived and lived as a gift, as a vocation and mission, amidst the diversity of options.”
Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB

VOCATION CULTURE



13/10/2012 - Vatican - **The Rector Major speaks to the Synodal Fathers: to foster a culture of vocations**

“Evangelisation and vocations are two inseparable elements – said the Superior General of the Salesians – indeed, an authentic hallmark of good evangelisation is its ability to arouse vocations, to bring to maturity projects of Gospel life, to involve the whole person of those who are being evangelized to become disciples, witnesses and Apostles”. For this the Ecclesial Ministry has got to become vocational, thus creating a culture of vocation, “which is a way of thinking and of coming to grips with life as a gift received from God for a project or a mission according to his plan”.

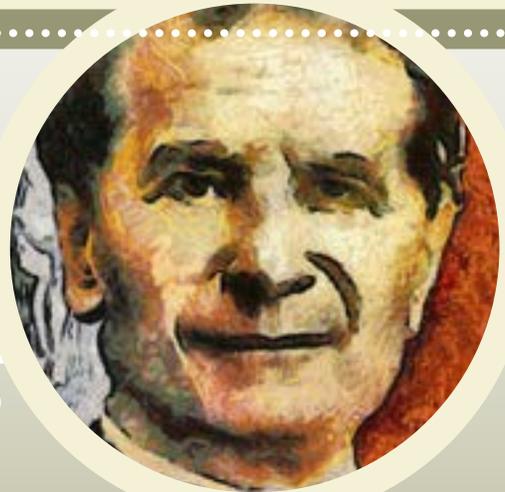
Wayne
Paul Garcia
 candidate



Wayne Paul Garcia

was born in Glendale California and has recently joined the candidacy program. Paul went to catholic schools until he was in 7th grade. He first found out about his calling to become a Salesian priest when he went on a life teen retreat up in the mountains and had spoken to a priest about an experience he felt. During the retreat the Priest advised Paul to start thinking about religious life. When he was in high school he would go to St. Joseph retreat renewal center to participate in the presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross and Sunday mass and eventually become a sacristan and also apart of their liturgy committee. He looks forward to this wonderful opportunity of the Salesian candidacy program and continuing his journey to follow his calling in life.

He can be contacted at
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Contact **Fr. Jose Lucero, sdb**

Vocation Director
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InterAmerica Region provincials' visit

By: Paul Garcia



Fr. Andriano Brigolin,
Vicar of the Rector
Major with (1) Fr. Jose
Lucero, (2) Fr. Harry
Rasmussen

(3) Fr. Brigolin with Fr.
Joseph Paradayil, Juan
Carlos, Paul Garcia

(4&5) Fr. Adriano
Bregolin, Fr. Esteban
Ortiz, InterAmerica
regional councilor, the
Provincials at dinner
with Salesians and
candidates at St. John
Bosco High School
community

This year's Inter-America Region provincials' meeting is taking place here in USA West! St. Joseph's Retreat Center is the host site for this meeting. Annually, the SDB Provincials from each of the Provinces that make up the Inter-America Region meet to discuss the realities, challenges and/or successes of each of the Provinces. In order to give the Provincials an opportunity to meet each of the Southern California communities, they will be visiting each community for dinner. This is a great chance for them to see all the different works that each Salesian Community performs. The Provincials will have the opportunity to take part in the 10 year anniversary Mass at St. Dominic Savio Parish and will have the choice to either visit downtown Los Angeles or the "Happiest Place on Earth," Disneyland, in Anaheim during their stay.

During the visit to the St. John Bosco and DeSales Hall communities, we were given the opportunity of interacting and speaking with Fr. Adriano Brigolin, Vicar of the Rector Major. I was seated at the same table as Fr. Brigolin and was able to converse with him about my Salesian journey thus far. He explained how nice it is to live in Rome and to work with Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez. Since I was seated next to Fr. Brigolin, he asked me several questions about how I feel about being a Salesian Candidate and if I was happy. I told him that I am very happy especially because I have the chance to interact with kids in our Oratory. I told him about my family and about my educational journey as well.

Fr. Brigolin also expressed interest out the Province's vocation recruitment process and got a chance to speak to Fr. Jose Lucero about various initiatives being implemented here in USA West.

While we only got to visit with the Provincials for a brief period of time, they seem to be enjoying their stay with us in our Province and seem very happy with the communities they have visited. It is an awesome experience to get to hear all the different ways the Salesians interact with young people all over the world.



REFLECTION

By Michael Howard
St. John Bosco High School,
Bellflower

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

The most special and important thing that I believe we can take away from this gospel is the line about if the master of the house knew the thief was coming, then he would make sure he didn't come in. Therefore, we can never know when the Son of Man will come. We must always be prepared for him to come and it is a very hard thing to do. This means we have to truly live our lives in faith every single day. We have to always know what the right thing to do is because if Jesus came down from heaven at this very moment, we would all wish to enter the kingdom of God with him.

I think what Luke is trying to say is that there is no time to make up for all the bad things we have done when Jesus comes. He isn't going to come down and give us thirty days to be good people so we can go to heaven. Jesus will judge us on how we have

lived our entire lives. So if we wish to be with him in Paradise, we have to always be trying to do the right thing. Living in faith is an everyday thing. We are not supposed choose when we will live in faith, it has to be something we struggle to do every day. And our struggle with living in faith will all pay off in the end when we can be with Jesus in heaven.

This is a very challenging thing to do as teenagers in high school. There are so many things that appeal to us because of our culture, but those things are exactly the things Jesus would want us to be doing. It is hard to wake up every day and be kind to everyone and live like Jesus did. I am by no means saying that what Jesus wants from us is easy. I just believe that if we have faith and wholeheartedly want to be with Jesus, then we can live our lives like he wants us to. And in doing this we may enter the kingdom of God with Jesus.

DE SALES HALL, BELLFLOWER

little bit of

NEWS

By: Bro. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

need windows to conform to the Child Safety Regulations.

On Monday after lunch, Fr. Jerry Bonjean and I met with Mr. John Swick of Harold's Key Shop to finalize the key system for the building.

Today (Tuesday, October 23, 2012) Fr. Paul Tran (Director of De Sales Hall) introduced Dave that has knowledge of Wolf Ranges and other kitchen appliances to look at the stove, and especially the controls. After inspecting the stove, Dave said he will order the necessary parts and install them. Thank you, Fr. Paul and Dave! That is a big savings.



A- 12 feet of the roof will be repaired.

B - Alex DeLeon checks out the charging of the Chapel's AC unit.

C - Dining room and lobby AC units closed in by cage.



Carpenters topping off the block wall after removing the top blocks.

a new fence will be installed and a gate for SCE's easement to the power lines behind the visitors' football bleachers.

A few weeks ago, the Bellflower area received a little rain. When that happened it was revealed that somewhere on the north side of the roof there was a leak. The roof will be repaired but in the mean time, the contractor has covered that portion of the roof with plastic sheets to prevent any further water damage to those third floor rooms. Early Tuesday (October 23, 2012) morning there was a small cloud burst over the Bellflower area.

Some good news, the neighborhood around De Sales Hall received a notice of a power outage on Thursday (October 25, 2012). The purpose of the power outage is so SCE can connect our building to the power grid.

The painters are touching up the rooms, doors, baseboards, etc. There are still a few doors that

This past week the AC equipment for the dining room and the chapel was installed and charged. The equipment could not be tested because of the lack of electricity.

The block wall between our property and the apartment driveway (to the south) has been lowered to meet the Public Works Specifications. A private gate was installed to prevent access to that side of the building.

The temporary construction office was removed since it will no longer be needed. We are coming to the end of the project. In the area where the office had been situated,



A



B



C



The new gate on the south side of the building with the wall cut to required specifications by the City of Bellflower.



MAY THEY REST IN
THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please pray for the repose of the souls of



MICHAEL DOHERTY

1944 - 2012

Michael was a professed Salesian:

1963 - 1969.

Michael was ordained a Permanent Deacon
for the Archdiocese of San Francisco,

June 19, 2005.

His diaconate ministry: Parochial Associate

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, San Francisco.

INTOUCH PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



Salesians of St. John Bosco

1100 Franklin Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

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.

Saints show people

how the Gospel is lived, witnessed to & proclaimed

Cardinal Angelo Amato, s.d.b



In the "Lineamenta" there are about 40 references to both sanctity, as conversion to Christ and as full reception of his grace, and Saints as indispensable protagonists of the new evangelization: "the key element in the work of the new evangelization is for every Christian to answer the call to holiness" (Instrumentum Laboris, no 158). The theme of the sanctity of the Church in her being and in the behaviour of her children constitutes a recurring theme of the document.

Why this insistence? Because in the Saints the Church offers the people an edifying display of the Gospel lived out, witnessed to and proclaimed undisguised.

Indeed, the Saints evangelize with their virtuous lives, nourished by faith, hope and charity. They personify the evangelical beatitudes, which are a faithful reflection of Christ: blessed are the poor in spirit, the gentle, the pure of heart, the merciful, the peacemakers, the persecuted. They respond with extraordinary creativity to the commandment to love God and neighbour: I was hungry and thirsty and you gave me food and drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, sick and in prison and you visited me.

The saints embrace humanity with their love, rendering coexistence better, more peaceful, more fraternal. This is why the days of our calendars are marked with the names of the saints. The history of the Church, in the East as well as the West, in the North as in the South, records saints of every age, country, race, language and culture, so that the grace of God the Trinity might be like the morning dew.

It is found on all the plants in the garden, yet on the rose it is red, on the leaves it is green, on the lilies it is white. It is the same with sanctity which, though being unique as a Divine gift, lightly penetrates and transforms the hearts of children of the Church all around the world, in Asia as well as Africa, in America as well as in Oceania or Europe. There are holy martyrs, holy confessors, holy doctors in the Church. All are witnesses to Christ and evangelizers.



Don Bosco Hall

Institute of Salesian Studies

1831 Arch Street

Berkeley, CA 94709

Here you will find resources such as the Don Bosco Study Guides, articles, books, and more.

You can also find information about the all of the degree and certificate programs offered by the Institute of Salesian Studies, including a Masters of Arts in Theology with various Salesian concentrations, youth ministry certificate, Salesian certificate, Sabbatical programs, and more!

The new Institute of Salesian Studies website:

<http://SalesianStudies.org>

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INTENSIVE SALESIAN COURSES



SALESIAN PEDAGOGY

JAN 7-11
5pm-8:30pm

**Education & Evangelization:
Girls & Young Women**

JAN 14-18
5pm-8:30pm

**Education & Evangelization:
Boys & Young Men**

Berkeley, CA

For the Salesian Family, the entire academic year 2012-2013 is dedicated to the study of St. John Bosco's Educational Methodology, a Salesian Pedagogy. Therefore, the Institute of Salesian Studies is offering two week-long intensive courses. The first week presents a pedagogical approach to the education and evangelization of girls & young women, and the second week for boys & young men.

Although these two weeks of courses stand on their own, the two weeks are designed to complement each other. You may register for one or two weeks.

Week One

Sr. Ann Cassidy, FMA draws upon the research of contemporary educators, as well as her own years of experience, to highlight the effectiveness of Salesian pedagogy, as well as to tailor its educational methods to the education of girls & young women.

Week Two

Fr. John Serio, SDB, tailors his course toward the Salesian educational and evangelical approach for boys & young men.

Continuing Education/Graduate UNITS

If you wish to take these courses for graduate or continuing education units, email:

info@salesianstudies.org

Or contact Fr. John Roche at 510-204-0801



salesianstudies.org/register