

March 29, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Last week many of us participated in one of the most impressive and significant gatherings of Catholics in the US, if not the whole world. I refer of course to the **Los Angeles Religious Education Congress** held annually at the Anaheim Convention Center. This year upwards of 40,000 people attended! You'd think such a huge gathering, even if it was about faith, would draw more media attention.

It's not that we of the Salesian Family just participated either. We had a very popular booth which was "manned" by SDB young men in formation, young FMA postulants, and young hearts and faces of the Salesian Youth Movement. And we also had one of our own, Juan Carlos Montenegro, invited back to give his popular workshop in Spanish on the Salesian style and brand of youth ministry. And then we saw the Salesian Family in action in our crowded hospitality suite in one of the hotels. My thanks, in the name of everyone in the province, to all involved.

A congress on religious education is exactly where we Salesians belong. Religious education is what we Salesians are about. After all, Don Bosco would say that his whole ministry began

with a simple catechism lesson and a Hail Mary. The very first regulations of the oratory have these words: "Religious instruction is the oratory's primary objective, while the rest is only an accessory, an inducement for the boys to attend." When our Constitutions tell us that "we are all called to be educators to the faith at every opportunity" (C 34), they lay down for us what must be the primary purpose of each of our institutions, programs and works.

Of all the many excellent talks I heard and workshops I attended one really stands out for me. It was a workshop by Thomas Groome of Boston College on implementing the US Bishops' framework in our religion classes. In our schools and parishes aren't we struggling with this framework? But I think Groome gives us a path forward when he challenges us to a new method of apologetics to teach the faith to our young people and to persuade them to that faith. Yes, apologetics! Actually it's an old apologetic method, stemming all the way back from Aristotle: *pathos*, *logos*, and *ethos*. As Salesian religious educators, whatever the curriculum or textbook, we want to share our enthusiasm for Jesus with young people (*pathos*). We want to appeal to their minds in understanding the reasonableness of faith in Jesus (*logos*). And we want to teach them the beauty of virtue over the fear of punishment (*ethos*). It's the difference between a teacher and a witness.

Is this not the method of Jesus with the disciples on the way to Emmaus, accompanying them from life to faith and back to life again? Is this not what Don Bosco meant by reason (*logos*), religion (*ethos*) and kindness (*pathos*) as the methodology for walking side by

side with the young so as to lead them to the risen Lord (C 34)?

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB  
Provincial

## Provincial's Calendar

### March 2012

- 26-31 Visitation: Provincial Residence, San Francisco
- 29 Chrism Mass: St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco
- 30 Members Meeting, Salesian High, Richmond

### April 2012

- 1-2 Office Days
- 3 Board Meeting, Salesian Boys & Girls Club, Los Angeles
- Principal Search Interviews, St. John Bosco, Bellflower
- 4-8 Office and Personal Days
- 9 Province Easter Dinner
- 10 PROVINCE DAY, Three Rivers, CA
- 11 Directors/Pastors Meeting, Three Rivers, CA
- 12 Office Day

## Pray for Our Sick

**Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB**  
**RECTOR MAJOR**

in treatment for liver infection

**Bro. Bob Hennings, SDB**  
knee replacement early April

## One Family, One Charism

By Andrew Coffey

The Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, held March 23-25 in Anaheim, is the largest gathering of its kind in the world. Youth, young adults, and adults gather annually for workshops, general assemblies, liturgies, and entertainment which this year reflected the theme “Voice Infusing Life.”

The Salesian Family turns out in force every year for this event, with our voice also “infusing life” into the weekend. As Salesians we are first followers of Jesus Christ, guided by the charism of Don Bosco. It is our call to reverberate God’s love for the young, infusing them with hope as followers of Christ. Among the 39,000 plus in attendance at Congress, this love for Christ was truly apparent; especially in the Salesian Family booth where Don Bosco’s charism was shared with all who passed.

To those walking by the booth in the exhibit hall a question could be loudly heard, “Do you know Don Bosco?” With smiles beaming on their faces, the answers were often yes. Following this “yes” was frequently a short story of how they came to know the Salesians and how their spiritual journey began with this encounter. During the three days of Congress, whether it was hearing personal stories of Don Bosco or connecting someone new to the family, we were all reminded of how God has taken root in each one of us and is lived out in a common spirituality throughout the world.



Bro. Al Vu, Gina Robles and her daughter, Justine, all ready to welcome Congress goers

Postulant Megan juggles for visitors.



Paulina Esparza and Andres Neira have fun with the world.

Closing Liturgy in the Convention Arena



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org).



Madrid Books next door to the Salesian booth carried *El Negocio de la Salvación* and *Intentionally A Catechist*, both by Juan Carlos Montenegro, Delegate for Mission Animation. These books may also be obtained at the Social Communication Office: (626) 280-8622 #35



Congratulations  
to the  
**Salesian Leadership Institute for Ministry**  
**Class of 2010-2012**

upon the completion of their two year journey of studies  
and

**GRADUATION**

celebrated at Eucharist  
with Fr. Tim Ploch

on

**Sunday, March 21, 2012**

Kellogg West Conference Center  
Pomona, California



Graduates holding Good Shepherd plaques and SLIM Team: (Front Row: L to R) Quintin Quejada, Parish Office, St. Dominic Savio; Fr. Chinh Nguyen, Province Vocation Director; Miguel Flores, CYM, DBTI; Br. Al Vu, SLIM Presenter, holding plaques for Mark Paxton, Development Director, SFCCCHS and Jesse Rodriguez, Teacher, SJBHS; Andrew Coffey, Salesian Youth Movement Leader; (Back Row: L to R) Judy Alvarez, SLIM Facilitator; Fr. John Roche, SLIM Facilitator; Daniel Meraz, Religion Dept. Chair, SHSLA; Veronica Hurd, Cooperator; Gina Robles, Program Coordinator, YMO; Fr. Tim Ploch, Provincial; Darlene Nichols, Christian Service, DBTI; Liza Carreon, Catechist, Corpus Christi; Fr. Jose Lucero, CYM, Corpus Christi; Fr. Joe Nguyen, Director, SJBHS; Fr. Paul Tran, Director, DeSales Hall

## Archdiocesan Christian Service Award Winners

By Juan Carlos Jimenez

On Tuesday March 20th, Archbishop Jose Gomez recognized various students and faculty members in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for their ministry in Christian Service.

The youth recipients from Salesian communities included:

Christopher J. Alvarez, DBTI; Steven Arellano, SHSLA; Juan Carlos Hernandez, SJBHS; Juan Jimenez, SJBHS; Sydney Perez, St. Dominic Savio; Dulce Farias, St. Dominic Savio. These young people have dedicated a substantial amount of their time in helping either their parishes or local communities.

One of the most memorable



Christian Service Award Recipients (Front Row - L to R): Sydney Perez and Dulce Farias, St. Mathias HS and St. Dominic Savio YM; Juan Jimenez, SJBHS; Christopher J. Alvarez, DBTI; Steven Arellano, SHSLA and Juan Carlos Hernandez, SJBHS (Standing behind Steven)

moments was when we gathered at the end of mass as a Salesian community to congratulate each other. It was great to see representatives from other Salesian schools, Sidney and Dulce, from St. Mathias High School, who constantly help at St. Dominic Savio.

As we get closer to 2015, the 200th birthday of Don Bosco, we seek to be more like him. All of the students who were recognized are grateful to serve others, as this is one of the most important values that we can obtain. God calls us to be a helping hand to everyone and therefore, as each day progresses, we must continue to be a force of unity and hope.

Even though this article is meant to recognize those that have been awarded by the Archbishop, it is most importantly a reminder to everyone to continue to be a guardian and help to those in need of assistance.

## A Prayer for Religious Liberty

At this time of government imposed measures contrary to our conscience, Sr. Angelita Guzman, FMA, of the Salesian Sisters' Provincial Residence in San Antonio recommends that we all say the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel "for the freedom of the Catholic Church in America":



*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle;  
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God,  
cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits  
who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

*We also ask the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Immaculate Conception and patroness of the United States,  
to intercede for us in this great struggle.*

## It might seem like a slow week

By Bro. Joe Lockwood

Two weeks ago the dominant job was pouring the concrete footing for the elevator before the predicted rainstorm arrived. Well, the storm was nothing to write home about, maybe a total of a quarter of an inch of rain.

All of the rough carpentry work inside the building, except for the confessional has been completed.

This week is called “the building trades’ week.” The communication company pulled the wires for the telephones system and cable TV in all of the common areas and in the confreres’ bedrooms. The fire alarm system, the smoke detectors,

security, and data wires were put in all three floors.

At the same time, the plumbers finished the roughing in of the sewer pipes, the toilets traps, the water pipes in the handicapped bedroom and the common bathrooms, and the sink in the community room. Next week the plumbing contractor will call for a plumbing inspection. Once the plumbing inspector okays the work, the walls can be covered with gypsum board.

The other building trade workers on the project are the electricians. They were very busy in raising the receptacle outlets and installing four electrical panels (two on the

second floor and the other two on the third floor), and pulling the electrical wires.

Yes, the carpenters were still working hard on building the concrete forms for the elevator walls. They build one side of the form and put in the steel dowels, and then build the other side providing a void for the concrete. But before the concrete walls are poured, the conduits for the emergency telephone, electricity, smoke detectors and fire alarm must be installed.

This last week Fr. Tim Ploch, Provincial, visited the job site and spoke to the Alfredo Urbina, Project Supervisor about the project.



*Jong the electrician speaks to Fr. Tim Ploch about the electrical panels*



*Carpenters forming the elevator wall*



*Forming the elevator wall*



*Alfredo Urbina explains the forming of the elevator walls to Fr. Tim Ploch*

**Nails** . . . solid and strong; rugged, yet reliable. Whether we can actually see them around us or not, they're everywhere! From the rafters above us - to the walls which surround us - to the floorboards beneath our feet. They hold things together, provide for stronger shelter, and allow us a more peaceful rest.

When you think about it, their size contradicts their strength. Like many things we tend to overlook in our world, they're small, yet undeniably powerful. And despite their size or visibility, they hold what matters most together.

Nails have held many important things in place over the centuries. Perhaps none are etched more deeply into our collective memories (and Spirits) than those which held Jesus to the cross. They are a very small part of a very big story, but they DID hold what mattered most together.

Those nails

. . . held Jesus' hands and feet securely  
to the wood at Calvary.

. . . held Him to His promise.

. . . held heaven to earth.

Those nails were exactly what this world needed to keep from falling apart.

Both Jesus and His father Joseph, a carpenter by trade, had to rely upon nails in order to faithfully build what it was they were meant to build in this life.

Joseph, by nailing wooden beams - one to another, created shelters and a resting place for the people of his time to love, and to call home.

Jesus, by being nailed to wooden beams, became a shelter and a resting place for the people of all time . . . to love, and to call home.

## A Sacred Scripture

"As far as the East is from the West,  
so far does He remove our transgressions from us."

- Psalm 103:12

## An Intention

When I remember the strong and faithful NAILS  
that are holding my world safely around me,  
I will also remember the nails which held Jesus to the Cross . . .  
and whisper this prayer:

"In the arms of your mercy I find rest,  
because You know just how far  
the East is from the West . . .  
from one scarred hand to the other."

*\*Intention quote is taken from  
Casting Crowns "East to West."*



Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation  
 A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission



**D**ear friends of the Salesian mission and missionaries,  
 First, I wish you all the greatest certainty of our faith, that the risen Lord lives among us! Every time I come to Valdocco I am impressed by the image of the risen Christ in the Pinardi Chapel. Even when I enter the Basilica at Colle Don Bosco I feel embraced by the great statue of the Risen Christ! This is the Christ of Don Bosco, the Salesian Christ!

This Easter season of 2012 I share with you an invitation of Don Bosco, one of the pillars of Salesian missionary culture: **Look beyond the courtyard of Valdocco!**

It means to habitually focus our attention beyond the walls of our house, school, parish, Province or over our country! It means educating with the eyes of a catholic, universal faith. We have inherited from Don Bosco this way of seeing the world!

I invite you to watch a short video clip («A workshop of the Holy Spirit», text by Fr. Aldo Giraud SDB, 1999) which was prepared as guide for the visit to the rooms of Don Bosco at Valdocco, and available on YouTube [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwSv4WbjpNM>]. From the windows of his room in Valdocco Don Bosco's gaze went beyond the courtyard and the church. He dreamt of the youth of the world, their avail-

ability, their need for training and friendship. He fixed his gaze at the Church, the mother of all peoples, and its mission of salvation. He sensed the urgency of the command of Jesus: «Go into all the world, proclaim the Gospel to every creature. »

During the first year of preparation for the Bicentennial of Don Bosco's birth I invite you all to know the story and the person of Don Bosco from the missionary point of view. This helps us to foster a missionary culture in our communities, among our lay collaborators and youth!

*Václav Klement*  
 Fr. Václav Klement, SDB  
 Councilor for the Missions



«The pilgrim Church in Africa is also called to contribute to the

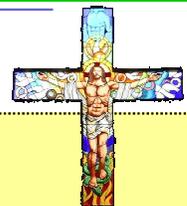
**Missionaries from Africa:  
 a concrete sign of the fruitfulness  
 of missio ad gentes!**

new evangelisation in secularised countries which once provided numerous missionaries but are today sadly lacking in vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. In the meantime, great numbers of African men and women have accepted the invitation of the Lord of the harvest (Mt 9:37-38) to work in his vineyard (Mt 20:1-16). Without weakening the missionary impulse *ad gentes* in the different countries, and indeed on the whole continent, the bishops of Africa should respond generously to the requests of their confreres in countries lacking vocations and assist the faithful deprived of priests. This form of cooperation, which should be governed by accords between the sending and the receiving Churches, becomes a concrete sign of the fruitfulness of the *missio ad gentes*. Blessed by the Lord, the Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11-18), it provides valuable support for the new evangelisation in countries of ancient Christian tradition »

Benedict XVI, *Africae munus*, n. 167

**We wish all the readers of "Cagliero 11" a Blessed Easter!**

**Christ is truly risen, Alleluia!**



### ***I Invite Austrians to sing God's praises with the same melody of love but with a new rhythm!***



**W**hen I was in the Noviciate, after the short visit of one of the Provincials from Spain who presented to us the reality of the Salesians and the scarcity of vocations in that country, I thought: "We are 22 Novices for two Provinces; why not give 3 or 5 to Spain so as to help them start anew?" But I soon forgot about it until the visit of Fr. Alencherry when he presented to us 60 Post-novices the missionary needs of the congregation. During the 26<sup>th</sup> General Chapter I read the "goodnight" of the Provincial of Vietnam where he spoke of the difficulties they go through to continue the work of Don Bosco. This made me decide to talk to my Rector and, later, to my Provincial.

With their permission I presented my application to go to the missions and the Rector Major sent me to Austria. Certainly, it was not easy for me to decide to become a missionary. I thought of my former Province ATE, the confreres, my Family, the typical Salesian African dynamism. But, when God calls there is no way I could turn away from him.

The *Course for New Missionaries* in Rome and Turin prepared me to face a new reality in a new world with a new Culture. When I go through thick and thin, I remember what I learnt during the course. Sometimes, I smile when I realise that what was predicted during the course really happens. Forewarned is forearmed!

But I draw strength from my personal prayer. The confreres too are another great Pillar. They help me stand and overcome my tough moments of initial introduction to a new culture, new Province with love and understanding.

"Go into the whole World..." As a missionary in Austria I see myself as a bearer of the Gospel; one who invites God's children to sing the same melody of love but with a new rhythm. Some sort of a "remix"! If young people no longer come to us, we need to go to them. When we go to them, it is Don Bosco who goes to them. The idea of being another Don Bosco helps me to be in contact with young people. But an African Don Bosco often surprises people. Yet, I consider it as a good opportunity to establish a new form of friendship.

With the love and support of all my confreres, Austria, which was a foreign land for me, is now becoming more and more my homeland!



*Cl. Simplice Tchoungang  
Cameroonian, missionary in Austria*



## Salesian Missionary Intention

### **AFRICA - For young Salesians in Africa who are preparing for the Priesthood**

That Salesian candidates for the priesthood in Africa may grow as true disciples of Christ the good shepherd who lays down his life totally for the good of his sheep

The Lord continues to call many young people of the African continent to the consecrated and priestly life. Today there are several Salesian communities in Africa and three theological study centres which accompany over 150 Salesian candidates to the priesthood through the last stage of formation in Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) Nairobi (Kenya) and Yaounde (Cameroon). We pray that they may grow as true followers of Christ the good shepherd who offers his whole life for the good of his sheep.



*All previous issues of "Cagliero 11" are available at [purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliero](http://purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliero)*