



INTOUCH

August 9
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



August 9, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

My plan was to reflect today on the third element of the preventive system (“education is a matter of the heart”) which the Rector Major proposes we need to reconsider in his short presentation of the 2013 strenna. But let’s postpone that until next week. Because I’m writing this on the 8th, feast day of St. Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers.

“So what” you say? Has the provincial gone Dominican? Well actually, I think Dominic has gone Salesian! Preparing for Mass this morning here in the provincial house it struck me how much the story of St. Dominic’s life and mission parallels what we Salesians are challenged to by both our last General Chapter (GC 26) and our next (GC 27).

If GC 26 measures our return to Don Bosco by the four nuclei of the urgent need for evangelization and the need to call others (the mysticism of *Give me souls*) together with poverty and new frontiers (the asceticism of *Take away the rest*), Dominic’s life story shows us the same dynamic. Shocked by the success of Albigensian preaching (everything material is evil, so Jesus did not take on flesh, procreation is sinful, etc.), Dominic felt the urgent

need to preach the truth of the Gospel and he called others to join him. He understood why other Catholic evangelists were not succeeding among the ordinary people. Their lifestyles were not as authentically evangelical as those of the heretics! So his Order of Preachers would live a life of poverty that was visible, credible, and fruitful, freeing them for the new frontiers of a worldwide mission that would last for centuries.

And if GC 27 will measure our following of Christ by the visible, credible, and fruitful witness we give to the radical way of the Gospel made specific for us Salesians in work and temperance, Dominic’s life story again shows us the same dynamic. There were Catholic preachers to take on the Albigensians, but the manner to which they had become accustomed was what inspired the muses of the likes of Geoffrey Chaucer and later Martin Luther. So Dominic formed a band of itinerant preachers to preach God’s Word while living lives of simplicity, purity, community, authenticity, hard work and temperance. Then their preaching succeeded. Met any Albigensians lately?

This feast of St. Dominic also gives me the chance to warmly thank his sons for lending us the auspices of their School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley to help us grow in our own Salesian spirit. May God grant holiness of life, faithfulness to our mission, and more vocations to the sons of Dominic Guzman and John Bosco.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial’s Calendar

August 2012

- 9-11 New Director’s Workshop, Fr. Chinh Nguyen, SDB
- 12 Sunday Supply, St. Luke’s, Stockton
- 13 Office Day
- 14 Arrival at LAX of new SUE Novices
- 15 Reception of 2012-2013 Novices
- 16-18 Provincial Council Meeting, San Francisco
- 19 Sunday Supply, St. Luke’s, Stockton
- 20 Community Meeting, DBTI, Rosemead
- 21 First Profession, Bro. Peter Duoc Le, SDB
- 22-23 Office Days

Please Pray for our Sick

Mrs. Elizabeth Alvarez
Fr. Chris Woerz
Mrs. Thresiamma Paradayil
Val Colussi
Bro. Noel DeBruton
Bro. Druno DePretto
Bro. Tony Freitas
Fr. John Malloy
Bro. Phil Mandile
Dona Bucilla

May They Rest In Peace

**MRS. CATHERINE
BACCARI**

August 7, 2012
wife of Al Baccari
long time Sts. Peter and Paul
Parishioners
Salesian Cooperators and
supporters

Born To Serve!

Jessie Smith a young adult from Wisconsin found the Salesian Volunteer program through "catholic volunteer network" she found the opportunity that she was looking for to serve our Lord being with young people specially those in most need.

After participating in our discernment retreat and filling out the application Jessie was welcome to our volunteer program and invited to be part in our formation retreat. In this retreat Jessie had the opportunity to write her mission statement that we would like to share with you. Jessie has been assigned to serve in Tijuana Mexico



I hope you enjoy her mission statement as we did...

Jc Montenegro

"It is not you who chose Me, but I who chose you." John 15:16. I love this verse because it reminds me that it is really a calling that I am here, and it is God who has asked me to give up this year of my life to serve and grow closer to Him and His call for me. During this year I also imagine myself as Mother Teresa puts it: "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world." I feel incredibly grateful for this opportunity as it has been a desire in my heart for a long time, and I know it is only the beginning of the great adventure that will be the rest of my life.

Upon entering the mission I will carry with me not only my faith, but

the values instilled in me of respect for all human life, honesty, positive attitude, hard work, and the value of Compassion. I will also carry with me what I have been reminded of on this retreat which is that we do nothing for our own glory, or just to help others, but for the glory of God and to love and walk with others in the every day journey.

Though I have small goals of improving my Spanish abilities, learning about a new culture, and gaining more skills to build my career as a teacher, my greater personal goals are learning more about myself and growing in confidence in who I am, as well as becoming proficient in the practice of Don Bosco's Preventative System.

I will go into this year of missions with an open heart in order to learn

about the people and place I will be in, as well as be flexible to the tasks asked of me. I want to be able to use all my gifts to their maximum potential in order to help others around me. Most importantly I hope to stay rooted in prayer and the Eucharist because without those it's so easy to loose joy, focus, and energy to serve and love those around me with a pure heart.

JESSICA M SMITH

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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Thank You So Much!



From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank all our volunteers who just finished their year of service: José Hernandez (Tijuana), Reymundo Gomez (Laredo) Taaj Lewis (Bellflower) Carlos Sousa (East LA) Filiberto Cortez (Richmond) and Van Tran (SJB) Thank you so much for your love and commitment to our Salesian Mission. Your example has motivated more young people to give their lives to God as you did.

May God bless you always in this new chapter of your life. May all the skills that you learn with us be use for the good of our young people specially the most in need. You are part of our family.

We the SALESIANS!

Welcome to our New Volunteers

After two weeks of formation our 2012-2013 Volunteers are ready for this new apostolic experience. Our volunteers are (from left to right) Matt Flansbaum (Corpus Christi) Jessica Smith and Marlette Espinoza (Tijuana-MX) Alec Manley (East LA) and Justin Fonteno (Laredo-TX). In the following weeks we will be publishing their mission statements so you can get to know better.

May the Lord make the difference in the life of the young people that you will be ministering too.

Welcome home!



The third floor is completely painted and ready for the door casing and the door molding. It is amazing how nice a spray gun can put a coat of paint on the walls and ceilings. Before the painting contractor put on the final coat of paint, they inspected the all of the rooms looking for waviness in both the ceilings and walls. When they find any waviness, the wall board hangers add a few more screws to pull the gypsum board closer to the two by six ceiling joists.

You think all of the sub-contractors are on board and want to see this project finished. But there is one sub-contractor who is not on board. And that sub-contractor is Mitsubishi – the elevator contractor. Alfredo Urbirs, VINCOR, our construction foreman, phoned Mitsubishi, and requested a time table when they will begin to install the elevator. Mitsubishi’s response was to send the request in writing. So, Alfredo e-mailed Mitsubishi the request but after a week of waiting (more delays) for a response, he phoned their office and asked for the time table. The Mitsubishi’s office response was that they did not receive the e-mail request. Alfredo sent the request again and is now waiting for Mitsubishi’s response. Mitsubishi is not a friendly sub-contractor.

The electricians have installed the new electrical panels. They will connect the wires to the panels and then call for an inspection from both the City of Bellflower and SCE. Once the inspections are completed, SCE will turn on the power for the building.

Verizon has been contacted for the six new phone lines for the facility. One phone line will be used for



Amazing spray gun!

By: Bro. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

emergency so if someone is stuck in the elevator, they can phone for help. One phone line will be used by fire department. Every time that the smoke detector or fire alarm goes off, the fire department will respond to the facility. One phone line will be used for the fax machine and the last three lines will be used by the various offices.

is being prepared. These plans must be in place before we can get an occupancy permit from the City.

VINCOR and flooring company are re-visiting the floor covering. We must bring down the floor covering cost. We are limited in floor covering because of the plywood sub-flooring. Plywood moves with the weather. If it cold it shrinks, if it is hot, it expands.

The evacuation plans for each room

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- 1. 2" conduit pipe for the 6 telephone lines. The conduit runs to the data room. - 2. Carlos is mixing the joint compound (mud) for the second floor taping. - 3. The painting contractor is spraying the final coat of paint on the third floor.





RECEPTION OF SALESIAN NOVICES 2012-2013

Very Reverend TIMOTHY PLOCH, SDB
Presiding

**AUGUST 15, 2012
at 5:00 PM**

St. Joseph's Novitiate & Youth Renewal Center
Rosemead, CA

Simple dinner reception to follow
in Center Cafeteria

All members of the Salesian Family are invited.

RSVP

frbillfkeane@juno.com

626-280-8622 ext 21



Salesian Family Days: Don Bosco the Educator An Opportunity for Formation and Fellowship

Featuring Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB, STD

October 13 Live at St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower, CA, and
Salesian High School, Richmond, CA.

October 27 at St. John Bosco School, San Antonio, Texas via internet
broadcast

To prepare for Salesian Family Day we offer a series of reflections on the nature and origin of the Salesian Family.

The Salesian Family the Genius of Don Bosco

By: Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB

Happenstance or Design

Up to this point we have seen a young eager priest, Don Bosco, who has begun to establish himself not in a comfortable parish or institution like the Refugio, but with a crowd of children and youth. He has no place to gather them. He has no money. But he does have friends to help him. We have seen that by 1846 he had rented a shed and a strip of land around the house to which the shed was attached. He converted the shed into a chapel and the young people play in the small area around the house.

Every Sunday and Feast day Don Bosco, gathers 300-500 children and young people young people. Don Borel helps faithfully and Fr. Cafasso, his mentor, also lends a hand when possible. The move to the Pinardi property was in April of 1846. He had been forming his Oratory over a five year period wondering from place to place first as a post-ordination student and then as the chaplain of the Refugio. He chose some of the older and better behaved boys to help him especially with the recreation and deportment of the children.

How does he do it? He works until he drops. In June he collapses and contracts bronchial pneumonia. Fr. Borel is able to continue the work. A primitive system is already in place. Don Bosco is away for months yet Oratory continues. While Don Bosco is away some local priest friends¹⁵ step in to help Fr. Borel to keep the Oratory open. They continued the Oratory as Don Bosco would have. On November 3, 1846 Don Bosco returns to Turin with his Mother Margarita. She will remain with her son caring for the children of the oratory until her death November 24, 1856.

Happenstance or Design: was this development of the Oratory accomplished by design, a carefully thought out plan developed by Don Bosco and his associates? Or was it simply the result of a series of random events that Don Bosco responded to until he was so involved and overwhelmed that he had to continue. Certainly there was very little design on the part of Don Bosco. Even from his childhood he had a keen desire to care for the young and unfortunate. This was set before him in the dream at the age of nine. While his personal narration claims only that a man and then a women were part of this strange dream, the Man did identify himself as the son of the woman John Bosco's mother taught him to pray to three times a day. In his dream it was Jesus who gave him his mission:

"Not with blows, but with meekness and charity you will make them your friends. Set to work at once, telling them about the ugliness of sin and the beauty of virtue ... because these things seem impossible to you, you must make them possible by obedience and the acquisition of learning... I will give you a teacher. Under her guidance you will become wise.

Mary comes into the dream and pointing to the animals now become children playing peacefully tells him:

"This is your field of work. Make yourself humble, strong and robust, and what you will see now happening to these animals, you will do for my sons."¹⁶

Don Bosco's genius comes from his profound trust in Divine Providence, his faith in the guidance of Mary, the Mother of God, his own natural intelligence and talents, and his ability to gather around himself people of all ages willing to join in and help him. These generous helpers will become the Salesian Family: Salesian Priests and Brothers, Salesian Sisters, Salesian Cooperators, Associates Devoted to Mary Help, Past Pupils of Don Bosco and over the past century some 30 groups dedicated to youth. As our Rector Major attests: The Salesian Youth Movement is a *vast movement of people for youth 400,000 strong*.

¹⁵ Ibid: *Don Bosco History and Spirit*, Volume 2, pg. 114-115 the names of the four priests are: Frs. Vola, Carpano, Trivero, Pacchiotti.

¹⁶ Ibid *Memoirs* pg. 9-10

