

Provincials' Letter

November 8, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Have you read the Rector Major's last letter? Its title is *Mary the Immaculate Help of Christians*, with the subtitle "Mother and Teacher of Don Bosco."

This time of preparation for our provincial chapter and the general chapter to follow is a time for intense reflection on the Salesian vocation we all share, whether as consecrated religious, lay collaborators, or members of the Salesian youth movement. Likewise this time leading up to the extraordinary visitation of our province in a few months is preparing us to hear some recommendations from our Rector Major tailor made

for us as a provincial community. The chapters and the extraordinary visitation, I can predict, are all going to focus on the same challenge: becoming more like Don Bosco, each and every one of us.

And that is why I recommend that we all read, if we have not already, Pascual Chavez's latest letter. There can be no authentic Salesian renewal without contemplating "the figure of Mary the Immaculate Help of Christians, in everything and always the Mother and Teacher of Don Bosco."

One of the themes in the letter is the role of Mary at the beginning of Don Bosco's vocation and then all through-

out his life. In his dream at the age of nine it was Mary who showed him his field of labor. Mary pointed out to him that he was to be a shepherd to the young, imitating the goodness and loving kindness of her Son the Good Shepherd.

But then Mary did not withdraw into fuzzy half remembered dreams. As our Rule of Life puts it in C 8, she was "the constant guide and support of his work, especially in the foundation of our Society." Reading his Memoirs, reading Arthur Lenti's seven volumes on Don Bosco, we cannot miss how Mary the Immaculate Help of Christians guided and supported him every step of the way.

My reflection is that Mary still exercises both roles in the individual lives of each of us, and in the life of the province. She was there at the start of our vocations. And I believe firmly that she is our constant guide and support ever since. As our province opens itself up to the changes of mentality and structure, of personnel and perhaps of presences, that the chapters and the ex-

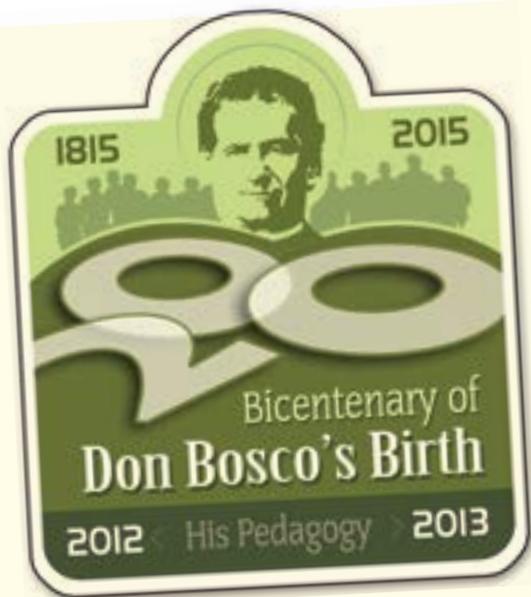
traordinary visitation will call us to, we need to be convinced that Mary guides and supports us too.

There is so much more in the letter, for example a deep presentation of the relationship between Don Bosco's two most common titles for Mary (Immaculate Conception and Help of Christians), Mary as the biblical model of faith, hope and love, and Mary in our Constitutions. I ask each one of us to read the letter personally. And I also urge communities to use it as a common spiritual reading, and to discuss it at Community Day gatherings. It will be well worth the effort, especially during this Year of Faith.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Timothy Ploch,
SDB**

My reflection is that Mary still exercises both roles in the individual lives of each of us, and in the life of the province. She was there at the start of our vocations. And I believe firmly that she is our constant guide and support ever since.



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

Rejoice!”

EDUCATION OF THE HEART

Beginning from our understanding of Don Bosco's pedagogy, the major points of reference and the tasks of Strenna 2013 are as follows.

1. **The 'Gospel of joy'**, which characterises all of Don Bosco's history and is the soul of his many activities. Don Bosco intercepted the desire for happiness in young people and listed their joy of living in language like cheerfulness, the playground and festivity; but he never ceased to point towards God as the source of real joy.

Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB
STRENNA 2013

PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

*Year
of Faith*

November 2012

- 7-9 Provincial Council Meeting,
Camp St. Francis
- 10 Bosco Fest, Richmond
- 11-13 Office Days
- 14 West Contra Costa Salesian
B&GCA Board Meeting
- 15-19 Office Days
- 20 Provincial Residence
Monthly Recollection
- 21-22 Office Days



VOCA**TION** CULTURE



Contact *Fr. Jose Lucero, sdb*

Vocation Director

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“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



Filiberto
Cortez
candidate

Filiberto Cortez was born in a small village in Puebla, Mexico on August 22, 1976. He has an older brother, Juan Manuel who belongs to Misioneros Servidores De La Palabra. He has a younger brother and a younger sister. Both of his parents live in Bellflower (Epifania and Magdaleno). Fili graduated from Downey High School in 1995, where he ran cross country and track setting a few school records. He continued his education at Mt. SAC and then transferred to CSLA in 1998. He attained his first B.A. in philosophy. He then joined the United States Marine Corps and soon after getting out of the Marines he became a teacher. He was a teacher for six years and got his second B.A. in psychology. Soon after getting his second B.A. he attained his teaching credentials from CSLA.

Fili has had a passion for backpacking and outdoor activities, making treks in South and Central America numerous times as well as overseas. His love for whitewater rafting and snowboarding have always inspired him to live life passionately. However, it seemed that there was always something missing in his life. In the summer of 2011 Fili learned about the Salesian Lay Missionary program and in November 2011 he went to Salesian High School in Richmond California as a Lay Missionary. Soon after joining the missionary program he applied to the Salesian candidacy program. In August 2011 Fili began the candidacy program at Saint John Bosco, since Fili has a teaching credentials, part of his ministry was to teach.

He can be contacted at **runwme25@yahoo.com**



Don Bosco Technical Institute



ROSEMEAD, CA. – November 5, 2012 - Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will host its annual Fall Open House on Sunday, November 18, 2012, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Prospective students, their families and other members of the community can tour Bosco Tech's extensive College & Counseling Resource Center and explore the school's applied-science technology labs where unmanned aerial vehicles and competitive programmed robots will be featured. Laboratory science displays and engineering demonstrations will also be available for viewing.

The award-winning Royal Techmen marching band will provide musical entertainment and an assortment of food will be available to guests. Bosco Tech's nine competitive sports teams and campus clubs will host displays across the campus and in the Yurak Athletic Center, the school's fully equipped

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TO HOST FALL OPEN HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 18

sports training facility. The Alumni Association will host a reception for all alumni.

Bosco Tech is the only all-male Catholic high school in the state that uniquely integrates a college-preparatory curriculum with a comprehensive, four-year, project-based science and technology program. The fully accredited academic curriculum allows students to exceed university admission requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of five technology and

engineering-related fields: Architecture and Construction Engineering; Computer Science and Electrical Engineering; Integrated Design, Engineering and Art; Materials Science, Engineering and Technology; and Media Arts and Technology. For further information about Bosco Tech, please call (626) 940-2000 or visit www.boscotech.edu.

For a full schedule of the day's events, please contact Rudy Herrera, Bosco Tech's Director of Admissions, at (626) 940-2009 or RHerrera@boscotech.edu.

Don Bosco Technical Institute
1151 San Gabriel Boulevard
Rosemead, CA 91770-4251
www.boscotech.edu

Contact: Karen Krynen
Phone: (626) 392-9967
E-mail: kkrynen@boscotech.edu
www.boscotech.edu



MAY THEY REST IN
THE PEACE OF CHRIST
Please pray for the repose of the souls of



ODILA MARTINEZ
November 1, 2012
aged 96
mother of Bro. Ernie Martinez, SDB



PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK



Bro. Tony Freitas, SDB
hospitalized
Doris Roche
mother of Fr. John Roche, SDB

Gina Robles
Youth Ministry Office
Bro. Tony Freitas, SDB
hospitalized
Fr. Richard Presenti, SDB
recovering from a blood clot
in the lung

Fr. Arthur Lenti, SDB
hospitalized for cellulitis



PROVINCIAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS



TWO NEW PRESIDENTS
By recommendation of the re-
spective Boards of Directors
and with the approval of the
Members

MR. PATRICK LEE
Principal
is appointed
PRESIDENT
St. Francis Central Coast
Catholic High School
effective immediately

&

MR. TIMOTHY CHAMBERS
is appointed
PRESIDENT
Salesian High School,
Richmond
effective July 1, 2013

Congratulations to both
Pat and Tim,
two fine Salesian leaders!



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