

Nouvelles Salésiennes Salesian News

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ABOUT THE WYD, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

I am happy to share a few thoughts on World Youth Day, in Sydney, Australia. Our **Don Bosco Canada** group was 44 people strong, from Missione Maria Ausiliatrice (Montreal), St. Benedict (Toronto) and Our Lady of Good Counsel (Surrey, B.C.). Our pilgrimage lasted from July 1 to 28. Sydney was my sixth WYD experience; so while these most recent thoughts come from Australia, they also reflect the "WYD culture" that is growing within the Church.

Through WYD, the ancient practice of spiritual pilgrimage has been re-invented for modern youth. It introduces them to the "catholicity" of the Church, and to the importance of the role of unity offered by the successor of St. Peter. It draws them into the paschal mystery through fellowship and a lived experience of the sacraments.

The physical journey to Sydney was an apt metaphor for the spiritual journey that our young people do desire to make. As a Salesian, I found it was also a metaphor for our mission as faith educators to the young. One line from Pope Benedict's homily at the closing Mass captured this for me personally: *One mission, lived fully, is more important than a thousand options never taken.*

WYD resonates for me as a Salesian with the same pastoral genius as Don Bosco's Oratory: the power of the "educative environment" to communicate a message even before a word is spoken; the group experience that is for many young people the first—if not the most meaningful—experience of "Church." In this faith-friendly environment, inhibitions drop. Joyful throngs of young people come to life in the simplicity of laughter shared in good company. They participate spontaneously in prayer, they experience a spiritual awakening and a humble questioning of their faith. Many find new courage to voice old fears and doubts that

previously lay silent in their hearts. They desire a personal encounter with Christ in confession and the Eucharist. As a confessor, it was inspiring for me to be the Lord's minister of forgiveness in 3 languages, to young people from across the globe.

As an ecclesial event, WYD has no parallel. Where else can young people experience both the "Magisterium-in-action" and the paternal leadership of the episcopacy in such a personal, unintimidating, youth-friendly way? At morning catechesis, young people learn from bishops and ask them questions. How easy it is to discuss the bishop's role to teach, guide and sanctify after they've had the experience in a positive way! Furthermore, in the light of the Pope's charism to attract crowds, linked with Benedict's more reserved character, it has become increasingly clear to the young pilgrims that we attend WYD not to see the Pope, but to encounter Christ, to whom the Pope points and around whom the faithful gather in unity for direction and leadership.

The theme for WYD Sydney was from Acts 1:8, You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses. In big ways and in small ways, this new Pentecost has begun. At the end of WYD, one Toronto pilgrim shared her appreciation of the Holy Father's words at the Prayer Vigil regarding the Holy Spirit. Because of that talk, she said, "I can now pray to the Holy Spirit as someone I know, as someone I can listen to. Before, I knew that I was supposed to believe in the Holy Spirit as the 3rd Person of the Trinity, but now He is much more alive for me." One Montreal pilgrim was touched by the Spirit at Lake Garibaldi outside Vancouver, where the "sheer beauty of the mountain and the lake made me feel God so close to me, like never before. I had to be alone for a while to say thanks." Especially for first-time WYD pilgrims, the power of the Holy Spirit was felt in the sheer volume of Catholic

young people, together in one place, simply because they are Catholic. This was a powerful antidote to the isolation of our post-modern age, in a world that increasingly "privatizes" religion. The Holy Spirit empowered the young to pray in public, and thus to have taken one significant step forward as witnesses to Christ.

Fr. Mike Pace

MONTREAL Fr. Mike Pace and Bro. Bernie Dubé, responsible for youth ministry at provincial level, arrived from Toronto on June 9. They met with Theo Vecera and Nadia Martone, the youth ministers of our parish, to draw up common lines of action.

In mid-June some 40 persons stopped here from Surrey and Toronto on their way to Quebec City, where they took part in the International Eucharistic Congress. Bro. Bernie and Fr. George Harkins accompanied them. Families of our parish gave them hospitality, and the next day they were on their way to the Congress. On the same day, we welcomed Bro. Jim Zettel, hailing from New Rochelle, N.Y., where he has spent the year teaching in our high school. He is spending the summer with us as animator at our summer camp. Meanwhile Fr. Tito left for Toronto, where he has studied English till the end of July so as to be more prepared to exercise his ministry in our parish.

About 20 parishioners joined with those of the Consolata Parish to participate at the conclusion of the Congress. The inclement weather did not prevent them from attending a very moving Eucharist on the Plains of Abraham, presided over by the papal legate, Card. Tomko. Pope Benedict XVI delivered the homily live from the Vatican.

Our parish has a group called the "JP2" (John Paul II); it is formed of young people who have received the sacrament of Confirmation. They lived a very original experience on June 23, a kind of mini-retreat. About 50 of them bicycled from our parish to the neighbouring Salesian parish of St. Joseph. Upon arrival, they went into church, had a half hour of adoration, and then bicycled back to the youth centre, where they spent a pleasant evening with their parents. Night prayer and the traditional "good night" closed the day.

The day after the national feast of St. John the Baptist, two busloads of pilgrims were on their way to the sanctuary of the Sacred Heart in Beauvoir in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, guided by Fr. Luc. They also visited some sites of the city and stopped by Savio Camp on their way back.

As you know, our parish also organises a summer camp. It lasts 7 weeks, and Fr. Richard is the camp director (in this, a faithful disciple of his one-time "catechist "at St. Pat's, Fr. Ted Ciampi. Many will recall how Fr. Ted would solemnly announce, after each camp season, "This is my last season as camp master...!"). It began almost immediately after school ended, and some 50 animators took care of those 430 youths divided into various age groups. At mid-season, the sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to all the groups over 2 days; besides, every Friday, they gather in church for a Eucharist. They then go on to their daily recreational activities.

At the end of June, there was the registration for catechism for the year 2008-2009. Until now, some 950 children and youths have signed their inscription. On the feast of Sts. Peter & Paul, at the Sunday English Mass, Fr. Luc presided over the commissioning of 8 young adults who a few days later joined those of Toronto to participate at WYD in Sydney, Australia. All in all, some 44 young adults, guided by Fr. Mike, spent a few days in Vancouver to then went on to Australia.

SHERBROOKE. Hier, les vacances commençaient; aujourd'hui l'année scolaire est à la veille de recommencer...! Réchauffement de la planète, accélération de l'histoire...? Qui a dit que tout est en relation dans l'univers?

L'été au Séminaire se passe plutôt paisiblement. Non pas que tout est en suspend... Il y a les activités estivales. Les divers camps: les 3 semaines de *Bosco Bicycle* ont pris fin le 18 juillet, le camp *Vivre l'Anglais* prenait fin en même temps au Camp Savio (et d'autres groupes se succèdent depuis), *Bosco II* a été choyé par sa semaine dans les Montagnes Blanches, le camp de jour du quartier nord de la ville se termine le 8 de cette semaine. Les travaux d'été à l'école avancent, tant à

l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur (l'aire de jeu). Et bien,! comme presque partout au pays, la pluie nous accompagne. Je vous fais grâce des statistiques; c'est trop triste...

À la mi-juillet, Paul C. et moi allions donner un coup de main aux prêtres de Marie-Auxiliatrice à Montréal pour le sacrement du Pardon des campeurs du DBYLC. Pendant la pause d'après-dîner, nous en avons profité pour rendre visite aux confrères de St-Joseph. Ainsi nous avons pu admirer le jardin du P. Dominique. Tout ressent la logique cartésienne; le *layout* est davantage français qu'anglais. Malheur aux petits et moins petits animaux qui essaieraient de sauter les grillages et de se pavaner dans les allées tout en grignotant une petite carotte ou un poivron!

Nous recevions du N.J., USA, la triste nouvelle le 31 juillet du décès du P. Paul Avallone. Le Canada salésien doit une grande dette de gratitude à ce pionnier du St.Patrick's High School de Sherbrooke. Il en fut le 1^{er} directeur-principal de 1955-1960. Il prit part aussi à la recherche et l'achat du terrain- la ferme Mathieu- qui accueillera le *Séminaire Salésien de Boucherville*.

Il y a quelques jours, nous avons accueilli le P. Hector Pascal d'Haïti. Il fait maintenant partie de notre communauté et prendra charge de la pastorale du 2^e cycle au Salésien. Tu es en territoire connu, cher Hector; tu es chez toi.

Le grand événement religieux du mois, vous l'avez deviné, fut la JMJ de Sydney. Nous n'y étions pas physiquement, mais nous avons pu suivre les principaux événements à Sel&Lumière et EWTN. Comme à d'autres JMJ (Paris, Cologne), les media australiens ont été amenés, malgré eux, à corriger le tir et à couvrir l'événement d'une façon plus convenable (il y aura toujours de ceux-là qui ne voient que le négatif!). Le lendemain du départ du pape, le Sydney Morning Herald portait la manchette, «From theologian to pope of the people.» Les jeunes du monde salésien étaient bien présents, entourant le Recteur Majeur et d'autres personnalités. Nous nous sommes unis à nos jeunes pèlerins de Montréal, Toronto et Surrey qui ont fait le voyage de leur vie (voir la réflexion du P. Mike dans ce no.).

Les interventions et les gestes de Benoît XVI tant sur le plan religieux que social ont donné à

l'événement une dimension d'intérêt planétaire. Par exemple, il aborda des thèmes écologiques 7 fois, commençant par l'une des questions posées par un journaliste australien à bord de l'avion en route vers Sydney. C'est un théologien devenu pasteur du monde qui ne s'isole pas dans un univers à part ou une tour d'ivoire et qui ne s'arrête pas aux accessoires. Il fallait entendre la marée de jeunes scander BE-NE-DET-TO...comme à Cologne. Oui, Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini... Béni (benedictus en latin veut dire béni ainsi que Benoît) soit celui qui vient au nom du Seigneur!

SURREY, B.C. Canada Day – July 1 was a busy Tuesday when the National Anthem was sung at the two morning Masses. Bro. Jerry led the congregation "a cappella" after the 7:30 a.m. celebration. Some time later about 47 WYD pilgrims, under the leadership of Fr. Mike Pace, SDB, arrived from the airport to enjoy the lunch prepared for them by our Salesian Cooperators, who were their hosts for the afternoon as they did some teambuilding activities. Later in the day they went to some Canada Day festivities at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds, took in the fireworks display and returned around 11:30 p.m. after a full and tiring day to meet their host families from the parish, where they would spend the next four nights. They visited downtown Vancouver and Stanley Park, were treated to a BBQ by the Knights of Columbus and CWL, plus a youth rally prepared by the parish Praise Team. They hiked on Mt. Garibaldi, where an outdoor Mass was celebrated, enjoyed a late but tasty pot-luck supper, spent their final midafternoon adventure at White Rock Beach before their grand farewell around 8:15 p.m. to the airport, and their departure for Sydney.

King George International College, which rents OLGC School during the month of July, took over our facility and campus with about 200 Asian and Spanish-speaking students who are here to learn English. July 2 came alive with their youthful voices.

The 2nd annual Don Bosco Sports Camp got underway July 7 for two weeks from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily at our Don Bosco Gym facilities

under the capable direction of Mr. Egitto and Mr. Vilio, who have over 20 years teaching experience combined. The camp is inspired by St. John Bosco, its patron, and has Salesian spiritual leadership provided by Fr. Dave. Activities and sports included at the camp are: basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, tennis, fitness training, core conditioning, games, snacks, a pizza lunch on Fridays, and tons of fun. They were completely sold out on a first-come, first-served basis.

The *PRAISE TEAM* summer dance workshops got underway in OLGC School Auditorium with one-hour afternoon sessions beginning with tap, then hip-hop, modern, etc. They have a large group of energetic and youthful participants learning the various steps.

July 10 had Bro. Jerry flying to Saskatoon, Sask., and then by bus for two hours and a 40minute trip to Melford for his first family reunion of the Lindberg generation (his grandfather—who hailed from Denmark) on his mother's side of the family. About 100 of the clan journeyed from as far as 900 miles by car from Nebraska, and from all areas east and west for this special occasion. Brother met third-, fourth- and fifth-generation cousins he didn't even know existed, many from his grandfather's brothers' side of family. It certainly is a small world when it comes to discovering relatives, and it has created an interest in his family tree especially on his father's side of the family. which originally hails from Austria (Galicia) and Poland.

Our *Praise Team* dancers, by invitation, attended the International Dance Challenge held in Orlando, Fla., July 18-20. They raised funds, and with the help of sponsors were able to fly there and pay for their accommodations. To the wonderful surprise of all, and literally after numerous hours of hard work and practice, they reached their peak and were awarded first place honours in this competition, winning not only one, but two Platinum 1st Place finishes in different dance divisions. They also received the Artstone Global Entertainment Award, with an offer to buy the rights to their arcadia dance routine. Mickey Reyes (son of Beth Reyes, our youth coordinator) won a dance scholarship to New York City. We are certainly proud of our Praise Team's

accomplishments.

The community enjoyed a deanery cookout at St. Bernadette's Parish on the evening of the 23rd, and were also invited out to another dinner treat at one of the parishioner's the following night. In a way, we have been spoiled with their many kindnesses of home-cooked goodies of thoughtfulness.

July 27 was 1st Communion Sunday for our Chaldean Community with Fr. Sarmed Biloues saying the Mass and doing the honours. He was assisted by his brother, Deacon, Sameen Biloues, who will receive the sacrament of Holy Orders Aug. 22 in our parish at the hands of his Chaldean bishop from Chicago, and by Fr. Dave. The church was packed for this very special occasion in their community.

Fr. Mario recently returned safe and sound to us from his visit to his homeland. He brought refurnished chalices and ciboria, plus other goodies back with him, especially items for our parish gift shop. It was good to have him back with us after such a long absence.

Many have been inquiring about how **Fr. John Basso** is doing after his eight-day stint in Surrey
Memorial Hospital. His gallbladder will eventually
have to be removed. He has lost about 24 pounds
through this ordeal and certainly has to watch what
he eats. Meanwhile he is still experiencing
weakness, no energy and sweating spells. At this
point, we are not sure if he is well enough to travel
to Montreal for our upcoming retreat at Manoir
d'Youville. According to Dr. Shek L. Wong, MD,
he may have suffered a minor heart attack. To top
everything off, he recently lost a filling and has a
temporary one until his dentist returns from
working in the mission fields of Mexico. Fr. John
would certainly appreciate your generous prayer.

This month has been extra busy with the usual amount of weddings, funerals and Baptisms, plus hospital visits keeping Frs. Dave and Jan on the go, and Bro. Jerry bringing the Eucharist to the nursing home residents while Fr. John has been available for the numerous confessions. The weather has been behaving too.

The latest and exciting news is that three of our parishioners will be entering the seminary in September. Our highland folk-dancer, Randy Sprott,

age 17, from Cloverdale has been accepted to the junior seminary of Christ the King High School in Mission, B.C. Robert D'Anna, a late vocation, age 47, has been accepted to the Oblates and will begin his training and studies also at Westminster Abbey in Mission. Finally, Glen Reed, around 35, will enter the Dominicans with the intention of priesthood.

INTERVIEW: BRO. JERRY HARASYM

What can you tell us about your family?

I was born in St. Boniface Hospital in the city of St. Boniface, Manitoba. My father was of Ukrainian decent, whereas his mother was Austrian. My mother, on the other hand, was of Danish decent and her mother was of German origin coming from Sugar Creek, Iowa. That makes me quite a mixture, and being born a Canadian on November 12, 1936.

What about your childhood and youth?

I grew up in the Winnipeg suburb of East Kildonan and attended the Redemptorist parish of St. Alphonsus, receiving all my major sacraments there. I attended St. Alphonsus School until the 9th grade, which was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto. For grades 10 and 11 I went to St. Mary's College in Brockville, Ont., where I excelled in public speaking and won the Junior Oratorical Contest of 1953-54.

How did you get to know the Salesians and how did your vocation come about?

Since my family couldn't afford to send me to St. Paul's College in Winnipeg, I began working as a lay person remained active in the parish setting. I set up a vocation display for the whole month of March – then known as "Vocation Month"—for my former grammar school. In examining all the materials, I think the brochures of the Salesians stayed with me.

A few years later when I was working at St. Patrick's Orphanage in Montreal, my spiritual director (who is a former Presentation brother, now a diocesan priest), directed me to St. Patrick's School in Sherbrooke, Que., then run by the Salesians. The rest is all history, for I acted on his direction and corresponded with Fr. Paul Avallone first, who was director at St. Pat's, and then Fr. Duffy, until I met my first Salesian, Fr. Joseph Tyminski, as I entered the Don Bosco Technical HS—coadjutors' aspirantate—as a Son of Mary in September of 1958 in Paterson, N.J.

What has been your Salesian itinerary?

My Salesian journey has been one with its ups and downs of the 11 various places in which I have served over these past 48 years. In all honesty, my main objective has been to *bring other souls to love HIM* in serving youth through cheerfulness in the varied assignments that the Good Lord sent my way: all phases of youth leadership, camp ministry, office and parish life, including teaching visual arts and world religions in our high schools. That saw me give 22 years in the USA and the remainder here in Canada.

What does being a Salesian brother mean to you and what facets of ministry do you value most?

Being a Salesian brother has meant being a "jack-of-all-trades" where I have worn many different hats, bringing my acquired advertising degree knowledge to good use as national director of the St. Dominic Savio Club, where I was able to reach out to mission countries, the poor, and to expand a positive influence with our teens and young adults in the five parishes where Divine Providence has led me.

I valued my work with the inner-city youth at the Boys' Club in Columbus, Ohio, especially because it challenged not only the way I lived, but what I was dedicated to as a Salesian, and as a person. "The poor we will always have with us!" In many cases that means "spiritually poor."

What would you consider as one of the most meaningful experiences of your Salesian life?

After more than 25 years in the Congregation, and in my 50th year I was allowed to take a sabbatical. I spent three months with the *L'Arche Community* in Ottawa. That period helped me to get in touch with my *humanness*. Then for another

three months, I was immersed in *Creation*Spirituality at Holy Name College in Oakland, Cal.

That helped me to get in touch with my *creativity*once again, and the final highlight of that special
year was three weeks, for my very first time,
visiting where our Father and Founder, Don Bosco,
was born, grew up, had his dreams and vision,
which in turn helped me to get in touch with my
spiritual roots. Beneficial? You bet!

Going back somewhat, here I would like to add something about the place of our Blessed Mother in my life. Roughly in May of 1956 when I was nearing 20, a Friday night incident, after attending May devotions, brought this sobering thought. A friend had bought a second-hand, small, compact Austin. A bunch of us piled in, and I being the tallest sat in the back seat behind the driver. We ended up on Henderson Highway, where he lost control on an S curve, as they were enlarging the highway and his back wheels caught the loose gravel. The Austin rolled a couple of times, but the strange fact was that none of us were seriously hurt; we missed a six-foot ditch; there was no traffic behind us or in the opposite lane, and yet we crawled out of that upside down accordion. In thanksgiving I bought two dozen fresh roses and placed them on Our Mother of Perpetual Help's altar the following evening. The next morning, which was a Sunday, as we had no Saturday evening Masses in those days, I came to Mass and went to check on the roses. Much to my surprise they were all dead. I tried to revive them by shocking them in hot water, cutting their stems, etc., but to no avail. I didn't think much of it then, but later on during one of our retreats, I honestly felt that Mary spared our lives that evening, and took the symbolic roses instead. In turn she led me to Don Bosco and her title of Mary, HELP of Christians, one of her few other titles that contain that special word "help" in them.

Do you have any hobbies or particular talents?

The good Lord has graced me with many talents, and they all boil down into one sensitive hobby ... ART. In that beauty I truly see and find HIM in all His glorious colours and creation. It has guided me through acting, radio, figure skating,

writing, dancing, singing, plus arts and crafts. Being creative has been HIS gift to me. Not that I haven't had to work at acquiring these talents, but I truly believe that for every natural gift one has, we—each of us—have the ability to acquire another where a person does have to "sweat bullets" (so to speak) to grow and mature finely tuned.

Would you like to transmit a message to Salesians, as also to young people?

The message I would like to leave with my Salesians and to young people is: DARE TO DREAM as our saintly father, Don Bosco, did! Never give up on your hopes. Wear a SMILE even when your body is weary. A generous heart will certainly be rewarded by our DIVINE LOVER. As cheerful givers we will surely bring other souls to love HIM, and in turn plant the seeds of vocations.

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BONNE FÊTE! 15: Roméo Trottier

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION!

15: George Harkins

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY OF PROFESSION!

11: Drago Gacnik

16: Richard Authier John Basso George Harkins Joseph Ho Enzo Trigatti Romano Venturelli

22: Jan Staszel28: James S. Zettel

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Retraite des salésiens du Canada Retreat of the Salesians of Canada au Manoir d'Youville Châteauguay, Que. (10-15 août)

HAVE A FRUITFUL
AND ENJOYABLE RETREAT!
BONNE RETRAITE SPIRITUELLE!
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