

Nouvelles Salésiennes *Salesian News*

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SHERBROOKE. Les fêtes sont passées. Il faut peut-être commencer à croire que le réchauffement de la planète, ce n'est pas une chimère. Notre Noël n'était peut-être pas d'un beau vert pomme, mais il n'était pas blanc non plus! Et les sports d'hiver de nos jeunes et membres du personnel pendant le congé en ont grandement souffert. Et nous voici lancés sur l'année 2007. Il me semble que ce n'est qu'hier que nous entrons dans le 3^{ème} millénaire. Et les activités communautaires et scolaires reprennent de plus belle...La rentrée a eu lieu le 8 janvier pour le personnel, le 9 pour les jeunes.

La communauté continue à préparer le chapitre provincial que nous célébrerons pendant la semaine de Pâques à Pierrefonds. Nous avons déjà étudié 3 des 5 thèmes qui devraient nous mettre sur la voie de l'élaboration d'un plan pastoral local ainsi que provincial.

Du 18 au 26 janvier, le P. Trottier se trouvait à Rome, participant aux *Journées de Spiritualité de la Famille Salésienne*. Dans les semaines qui suivent, il aura l'occasion de partager avec ses confrères et consœurs les richesses de ce congrès auquel participaient quelque 250 membres de la FS.

Se réservant quelques jours après le congrès, il eut le bonheur de participer à l'audience papale du mercredi ainsi qu'aux vêpres œcuméniques présidées par Benoît XVI en la basilique St Paul-hors les murs à la conclusion de la Semaine de l'unité chrétienne le 25.

Le 26 du mois, quelque 350 enseignants et membres du personnel des 11 institutions privées de la région se retrouvaient au Séminaire Salésien pour **une journée de perfectionnement**. L'objectif ? Bien se préparer à **l'implantation de la réforme**

pédagogique au 2^{ème} cycle, tout en échangeant sur les défis auxquels il faut faire face quotidiennement dans leur tâche d'éducateurs. Ils ont participé à divers ateliers : la violence, les styles d'autorité, le soutien à la réussite auprès des élèves en déficit d'attention, le stress et l'anxiété chez les jeunes, etc.

Un autre événement marquant de cette période de l'année est **l'Expo-Sciences** locale qui s'est tenue à la Salle Père-Décarie : 36 kiosques dont la moitié ont été jugés aptes à se rendre à l'Expo régionale. Ce qui démontre les talents scientifiques de nos « jeunes savants. » Les kiosques étaient évalués par le personnel et les étudiants eux-mêmes selon plusieurs critères : pertinence du sujet, l'intérêt, la présentation (diction, réponses aux questions, etc.) sources utilisées, etc.

La **fête de Don Bosco** est l'un des temps forts de célébration pour les étudiants au cours de l'année. Le leitmotiv cette année a été inspiré du thème du prochain Chapitre Général et de la devise des salésiens : *Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*, que nous avons traduit librement : *Ici, ce qui compte le plus, c'est toi*. On a remis à chaque élève un porte-clés portant le logo de la direction générale des salésiens et au verso la phrase ci-dessus. Dans une intervention très écoutée, le P. Bob a expliqué le sens et de l'icône et des paroles. Le Bosco-Show retrouva la scène encore cette année avec la participation de 35 élèves (musique, chorégraphie) et de 12 membres du personnel. Le spectacle fut présenté en matinée au 2^{ème} cycle et en après-midi au 1^{er}. Sarah Séguin-Baril et Jimmy Forgues (2^{ème} cycle), Samuel Longchamps et Simon Provencher-Girard firent un formidable travail d'animation.

Une autre activité qui est en voie de devenir traditionnelle, c'est **Portes Ouvertes** sur la

communauté pour les 10 groupes des 1^{ère} et 2^{ème} secondaires. Les guides cette année étaient les PP. Alain, Paul et Roméo. À chacun des locaux visités (bureau de Paul, chapelle, salle à manger de la communauté et ateliers de menuiserie et de reliure), quelque chose est dit de la **vie de Don Bosco**, comme aussi de la façon dont **la communauté** continue son œuvre (« Je fais le brouillon; vous ferez la bonne copie »! DB). Dans l'atelier de menuiserie, nous avons chanté *Bonne Fête* au Fr. Gérard Richard qui célébrait ce jour-là, le 30, son 84^{ème} anniversaire de naissance.

En communauté, nous avons célébré notre fondateur le jour même de sa fête liturgique, le 31 (pour les élèves c'était le 25). Nous avons eu le bonheur d'accueillir **notre archevêque, Mgr André Gaumond**, qui est aussi le président de la Conférence des évêques du Canada. Il présida l'eucharistie et prit le repas avec nous. Nous avons saisi l'occasion de « renouveler » la photo « officielle » de notre communauté. On commençait à ne plus reconnaître les personnages de l'ancienne...!

Ces jours-ci, le **Fr. Marcel Gauthier** est au centre de l'attention. Vous avez deviné pourquoi? Il vient d'Hérouxville!!! St-Timothéen, il participe à la gloire et la renommée mondiale dont on entoure sa petite municipalité de la Mauricie qui se trouve dans la *banlieue* de St-Tite et de Proulxville... Il est l'un de ses citoyens qui est parfaitement d'accord avec les « normes de vie » du conseil municipal, même s'il n'y a pas d'immigrés à St-Timothée. « On sait jamais...! » Ces temps-ci, il regarde la télé beaucoup plus souvent que d'habitude; il a hâte qu'on annonce l'établissement du 1^{er} « étrange ». Question de voir la suite...

Bonne préparation de chapitre et bon début de carême!

TORONTO-HAMILTON. Fr. Drago received an encouraging Christmas present from Slovenia in the person of **Fr. Marian**, one of his former students

who will remain as his assistant at St. Gregory's Parish in Hamilton for the next 6 months.

Our Toronto-Hamilton Community had the delight of welcoming our "recycled" **Fr. Provincial** for his canonical visitation from Jan. 11 to 16. In addition to the two meditations he preached, he also gave a mini-retreat to 20 Salesian Cooperators and lay collaborators. He met with the house council, celebrated two Masses at St. Benedict's and visited our three confreres in Hamilton. We were also pleased to have Fr. Richard with us for our first sharing on Theme #1 in preparation for our upcoming provincial chapter. He helped us a lot with the methodology in our personal reflections.

At our **St. John Bosco** evening Eucharist on January 30, the St. Benedict's Centre of the Salesian Cooperators welcomed **Marilena Berardinelli's first promise**. Marilena is a former parishioner of Mary Help of Christians in Rivière-des-Prairies. She is presently teaching at St. Michael's choir school here in Toronto. She was also elected to our local Cooperators council. Congratulations! We welcomed Fr. Bernie Gilliece for a week of R&R (Jan. 31 to Feb. 8). He still looks in top shape for his young age.

Fr. George assisted at the **Retirement ceremony and Mass for Fr. Joseph Fenech**, a former Salesian, at St. Aidan's Church in Scarborough. He was the founding pastor 20 years ago. Fr. George likewise celebrated the Mass of St. John Bosco and gave the homily on Sunday, January 28. Many members of the Salesian Family were also present.

Fr. Kelly recently preached a weekend retreat to the community in Tampa, Florida. He profited from this trip to spend a few days with some of his relatives and take in a little R&R. He had high praise for the retired confreres' new residence. Before many parishioners and members of the Salesian Family, for the **feast of our Founder**, he delivered a masterful panegyric on the charismatic figure who was Don Bosco during our Eucharistic celebration. A light lunch followed in the company of the Salesian Sisters and some friends.

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INTERVIEW : FR. MARIO VILLARAZA
Surrey, BC

What can you tell us about your family?

My parents are Diogenes Villaraza (deceased 1995) and Elena Marquez. We are eight siblings (3 sisters and 5 brothers). My parents are very religious and members of the Salesian Cooperators in Manila, Philippines. I was born in Davao City but grew up in Mandaluyong City, where there is a Salesian school.

My mom came in contact with the Salesians when she was just a child. Bishop William Piani, S.D.B., was the apostolic delegate to the Philippines for almost 4 decades, from 1910 to 1946. When he would go for his yearly vacation to the hometown of my mom in San José, Batangas, a parish run by the Oblates of Saint Joseph, the children of the town would gather in the train station to welcome him. He would give candies, holy pictures of Mary Help of Christians and Blessed John Bosco.

As a little girl of 11, my mom was given by an uncle a sweepstake ticket (lotto) and she prayed to Blessed John Bosco: *“Don Bosco, help me win the lotto because you came from a poor family and I am also poor.”* She never won any lotto, but when I became a priest and again for my 25th priestly anniversary last January 6, 2007, I told her she won the jackpot – a son priest. Don Bosco would say: *“A son priest is God’s greatest gift to a family.”* My mom, Lena, experienced also a grace from Mary Help of Christians which I would consider a little miracle. The following is an excerpt from an article written by my brother-in-law, Delfin Angeles, for the occasion of my 25th year as priest:

Because they served as altar boys, Lena’s brothers Luis and Salvador became good friends of Bishop Piani. Also a little before the war, the bishop gave Luis a large picture of Mary, Help of Christians, which the Marquez family devotedly displayed at the center of the living room. Then on December 8, 1941, the Japanese invaded the country. One day, during the Japanese occupation, Lena took it upon herself to clean their house and she thought of

replacing the picture of Mary, Help of Christians with the picture of her beauty queen sister, Lilia. After all, Lilia had been recently crowned as Miss High School of the Southern College in Cebu. That very same day, the farm lookouts spotted Japanese soldiers coming toward the farm. The girls were quickly whisked away. The Japanese barged into the house to search for guerrillas. Lilia’s picture caught the attention of the soldiers. Their father was tied up and threatened with bayonets when he would not tell where the beauty queen could be found. In their heart of hearts, they prayed to Mary Help of Christians. At last, the soldiers relented and went away with sacks of rice instead. Right away, Lena returned Mary to her rightful place in the center of the living room. To this day, the Marquez recall that the Japanese never patrolled the farm area except on that day, and they never returned. Lena since then learned to enthrone Mary Help of Christians in her heart and in her home.

What about your childhood and youth?

I spent my childhood and even my youth in games. I learned to be daring and not to be afraid of anything in the swimming pool of Don Bosco Mandaluyong. I learned to be tough and to be humble in the soccer field.

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

When my family finally settled in Mandaluyong, my eldest brother entered Don Bosco Technical Institute and became a soccer player. This attracted us boys to go to Don Bosco. I was then Grade 2. There we met the Salesians, who were always in the playground. Fr. Maurillo Candusso, S.D.B., in charge of the youth centre, left a deep impression on all the kids of the youth centre; he was a real saintly priest.

My older brother, who was in his 3rd year high school, decided to enter the aspirantate, and I was allowed to enter so that my brother would not get homesick. During his novitiate, he found out that he was meant for another kind of life. He decided to leave and I was left behind in the seminary. I entered the novitiate on April 1, 1974, with Fr. Alfred

Cogliandro as my novice master; and professed on April 1, 1975.

Where were you ordained, and how did you spend your first years as a Salesian?

I was ordained on December 8, 1981, in Parañaque, Metro Manila. My first five years, I was assigned to the house of formation (aspirantate) and at the same time in charge of the youth centre.

What various apostolates did you exercise?

1982-1983 Catechist of the aspirants (Don Bosco Juniorate – Pampanga)

1983-1987 Principal of the aspirants (Don Bosco Missionary Seminary – Cebu)

1987-1988 Associate pastor of San Ildefonso Parish (Makati City)

1988-1991 Dean of college (Don Bosco College Seminary – Canlubang)

1991-1994 Dean of engineering (Don Bosco Technical College – Mandaluyong City)

1994-2004 Pastor/director of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish – Naga City)

Since 2004 I am pastor/director of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Surrey. And I love what I do!

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

The most meaningful experience in my Salesian life was when I was assigned as pastor/director of a mission parish in Naga City, Philippines. For 10 years, “to live poor like the poor.” I witnessed how God works wonders when we never close our hands to the poor in need. Providence came in when we shared the little we had with those who were more in need.

I experienced also that the strength of every Salesian is the religious community. Trials from within the person, from outside the community and within the community were overcome by the support of the Salesian community. When we lose our community life, we lose also our Salesian vocation and identity.

I learned also that to be a Salesian means to be a “pastor bonus”: to defend those who are oppressed and to continue doing good even when you are often misunderstood.

What message would you give to Salesians, as also to young people?

Whatever your vocation is (whether you are a priest, a brother, or a lay person), put “*fire in your life*” or *zeal*. I do this because of my love for.... That will be your driving force, that will give meaning to what you are doing and that will lead you to find happiness in life. God will be there if you do your part.

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KOCHI, KERALA. Au cours de la deuxième journée de sa visite dans l’État du Kerala, le **Recteur Majeur** a rencontré un groupe nombreux de salésiens et de représentants de la Famille salésienne auprès du pensionnat philosophique de Aluva. Au cours de la rencontre, le père Chávez a rappelé les **deux icônes bibliques de la femme samaritaine et du bon samaritain**, les présentant comme une référence pour la vie salésienne. “La vie consacrée a une tâche nette dans le monde: le rapprocher de Dieu, le rendre présent à l’humanité nécessiteuse, pauvre et abandonnée dans son chemin. – a affirmé le père Chávez – Cela exige un style de vie “samaritain” ... qui requiert une **passion pour Dieu et pour l’humanité.**” Le Recteur Majeur a souligné le risque d’adultérer la mission considérant comme sa tâche principale “l’efficacité et la libre initiative comme signe de la tendresse, de la compassion et de la présence salvifique de Dieu dans le monde. Pour les salésiens, la femme samaritaine et le bon samaritain sont les icônes d’une soif profonde qui s’éteint en Dieu et dans la rencontre avec Jésus.” Au terme de la rencontre, le père Chávez a présidé une célébration eucharistique solennelle au cours de laquelle il a demandé aux membres de la Famille salésienne de “**s’engager avec confiance dans la défense de la qualité et de la dignité de toute vie**, en particulier de celle faible et pauvre.” Par la suite, le Recteur

Majeur a visité le centre d'éducation pour les enfants des rues, "Home of Love," de Sneha Bhavan, confiée par les autorités de l'État du Kerala aux salésiens. Au terme de la journée, il a participé au début des célébrations pour le 25^{ème} anniversaire du "Don Bosco Cultural Centre" de Vennala.

ANS 6 février 2007

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VATICAN CITY. Cardinal Javierre served the Church faithfully At midday today, at the altar of the cathedra in St. Peter's Basilica, **the Pope presided at the funeral of Cardinal Antonio Maria Javierre Ortas S.D.B.**, prefect emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, who died yesterday in Rome a few weeks before his 86th birthday. In his homily, the Holy Father affirmed that the late Spanish cardinal, following the example of Don Bosco, would have wanted to live his Salesian vocation in direct contact with young people, in the mission lands, but Providence called him to other duties. Thus he became an apostle in the universities and in the Roman Curia, although without missing an occasion to continue his intense spiritual activity ... in the field of theology and in the wider field of culture, especially by animating groups of teachers and religious, and as chaplain to university students. **His service to the Church was faithful and generous, always willing and cordial.**" "Cardinal Javierre Ortas," he continued, "wanted his personal life and his ecclesial mission to be a message of hope. Through his apostolate, following the example of St. John Bosco, he strove to communicate to everyone that Christ is always with us. How often did he--son of the land of St. Theresa and of St. John of the Cross--pray in his heart: 'Nada te turbe, / nada te espante. / Quien a Dios tiene / nada le falta / ... / Solo Dios basta'." "As a worthy son of Don Bosco," the cardinal "was profoundly devoted to the Virgin Mary, whom he loved and venerated as Our Lady of Help. He sought to imitate the manner of discreet and generous service of the Madonna, 'Ancilla Domini.'

He left his functions as prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments 'on tiptoe,' in order to dedicate himself to another function, one that must never be abandoned: that of prayer."

***Vatican Information Service, Vatican City:
2 February 2007***

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JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

De naissance : Enzo Trigatti : 24-02

P. Dominique Britschu : 1-03 (Heureux 75ième!)

Of Ordination : John Basso : 11-02