



Nouvelles Salésiennes *Salesian News*

Novembre 2008 November No.111

Bulletin mensuel électronique
sdbsem@videotron.ca

EDMONTON. St. John Bosco Parish is preparing for First Reconciliation. There is a 7-session catechism preparation program held on Sunday mornings.

A Salesian Cooperator meeting was held On Oct. 20 at the parish for both St. John Bosco centre and St. Dominic Savio centre.

A Deanery meeting for the priests from 7 parishes was held on Oct. 21. Marriage Preparation at both the Diocesan and parish level was the topic discussed.

St. Dominic Savio Parish hosted a "Welcome Back" Mass and supper on Oct. 4. Pilgrims from WYD 2008 Sydney were invited to the 5:00 Mass at which Archbishop Richard Smith presided. After the Mass a delicious spaghetti supper that had been prepared by the K of C was enjoyed by all.

On Oct. 5 we had our First Reconciliation registration meeting for parents and children. There are 65 children preparing for the sacrament. The children keep Fr. Bernie busy before and after Masses signing their attendance cards!

Oct. 6-10 was *Read In Week* at all of our Catholic Schools. The youth minister and pastoral assistant read to many classes at 3 different schools.

Fr. Bernie participated in the Thanksgiving school celebrations on Oct. 9 and 10. The parish food drive as well as the food collected at the schools was very successful. The St. Vincent de Paul storage room is overflowing!

Our 16th Annual Pasta Supper was held in the gym of the junior high school on Oct. 17. The gym was filled with 300+ adults and children, who enjoyed a wonderful meal, a silent auction and many raffles. Since our team of volunteers for the last 15 years decided they wanted a break, the WYD members volunteered to coordinate this event for the first time. They did an excellent job and we look forward to the 17th Annual.

Fr. Bernie presented the Grade 4 classes at St. John Bosco School with New Testaments on Oct. 27.

Thanks to Fr. Bernie for manning the parish office by himself on Oct. 30 while the staff was at the Pastoral Centre for an orientation day.

+++++

TORONTO. Our Salesian community welcomed 18-year-old Sebastian Navarro from Guadalajara, Mexico, who will be living with us this year while attending school at *De La Salle* so as to improve his English. Sebastian was baptized by our Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chávez, a good friend with Sebastian's family.

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we held our first blessing of the pets of our parishioners. Some 50 people showed up with everything from turtle doves to snakes.

Our Savio Club has started another year with the after-school program for over 75 registered members.

The local Salesian Family Commission has been at work preparing their 3rd Family Day, to be held on Nov. 8 at St. Benedict's. Over 70 participants have already registered. The main talk will be given by Fr. Frank Kelly on the theme "*Don Bosco and the Family.*"

Fr. Joe Ho has just returned safe and sound after a three-week vacation with his remaining family members in Hong Kong.

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, our community visited with Fr. Dave Purdy at Southdown, followed by a turkey dinner at Howard Johnson's in Aurora. Fr. Dave is doing quite well. He is expected to return to California for the beginning of the new year.

The Salesian Sisters of Marguerita Street hosted our community for Thanksgiving dinner. A meaningful prayer service, food galore and sumptuous desserts were enjoyed by all.

On Oct. 15 we held our 1st quarterly recollection at *Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre*, on the theme of the upcoming merger SUE-CAN.

Michel Jobin, our SC coordinator, was recently elected to the Interamerica Regional Advisory Board as the *chargé* of formation.

Another activity-filled year is underway for our newly formed *Knights of Columbus* and young *Squires* councils. Foster Kwon and his youth team have already undertaken various group activities such as a walk-a-thon to the downtown cathedral and an All Hallows' Eve party, where both children and parents dressed up as their favourite saint. Everyone agreed that this should be the beginning of a tradition.

+++++

SHERBROOKE, QC. Ici dans l'est du Canada, octobre est un mois de transition. Les premiers jours sont généralement très beaux, puis est lancé l'avertissement que nous ne sommes pas en Floride. Et comme si la nature se repentait de sa conduite, survient pendant quelques jours «l'été des Indiens» (pour nous rappeler peut-être que nous ne sommes pas les premiers habitants de ce pays...) et le 30 octobre, au réveil, nous avons pu constater que le sol et les toits étaient couverts d'une éphémère «manne blanche.» Ici ce n'était que quelques cm, mais en Outaouais, du côté de la capitale nationale, c'était bien la surprise d'une vingtaine de cm. Alors, mes amis, sortez vos tuques, cache-oreilles, mitaines, bottes, foulards, «combinaisons», pneus d'hiver etc.

L'accueil des 5^e et 6^e années des écoles primaires de Sherbrooke et de la région le 3 octobre fut un grand succès. Quelque 140 jeunes se présentèrent pour la journée. Ils l'ont vécue sur le thème, *Viens jouer dans notre cour*; l'activité de clôture fut le jeu à la *Salle Père-Décarie* animé par Charles Lafortune de *TVA*, venu expressément de Montréal. Ces jeunes «génies en herbe» (aidés toutefois de leurs parents).se débrouillèrent très bien.

La cérémonie de graduation des finissants 2008 s'est tenue le lendemain, salle comble. Lors de cette soirée brillamment animée par Nicolas Duquette, eut lieu la remise des diplômes, de l'album-école '08, du *Prix du Gouverneur Général* à Danika Rozon (les 2

autres nominés les plus concurrentiels étant Dominic Brodeur et Daniel Boudreau). Le *Prix Périclès*, remis depuis 3 ans à un ancien/ne du Salésien qui se distingue dans le domaine des arts, fut décerné cette année à Maxime McKinley, auteur-compositeur. Voici ce qu'écrivait Guy Marceau dans *Paroles & Musique*, 2006 :

«*Maxime McKinley is one of the most interesting composers of his generation. Painting, literature, philosophy, poetry and music weave an eclectic web in the head of this creator* (cf. Google sous *Maxime McKinley*).

La 1^{ère} *Portes Ouvertes* attira quelque 250 familles. Plusieurs membres du personnel enseignant et non enseignant collaborèrent au *blitz* de publicité. Les commentaires recueillis au terme de la visite des parents et leurs jeunes décrivent ce qu'ils ont découvert au Salésien : «*chaleureux, bel accueil, très bien organisé, chaleur humaine, nouveaux programmes intéressants, détaillés et riches en information*, (ndlr : il s'agit des programmes études-soccer, études-tennis, études-hockey, études-langues (anglais et espagnol)- voir www.seminairesalesien.org), *on se sent comme dans une famille, etc.*». Une autre *P.O.* est prévu le 8 novembre. Saviez-vous que c'est le Salésien qui a initié cette pratique des *P.O.* à Sherbrooke au temps du P. Donne?

Les élections fédérales ne sont pas passées inaperçues à l'école. L'éducation politique fait partie de l'éducation intégrale. Les jours précédant le scrutin, sur les heures de cours, il y eut des débats où chaque parti était représenté par un étudiant. Il fallait voir le sérieux de l'affaire et les dossiers préparés. Quelques jours avant l'élection, 3 candidats (les vrais!) sont venus échanger sur leur programme politique avec le personnel et les étudiants intéressés et répondre à leurs questions. Puis vint la dernière étape, celle du vote.

La communauté a reçu de la belle visite ces derniers temps : deux salésiens d'Haïti, les PP. Decange Sylvain, directeur de Pétionville et Jeannot Sylvain, vicaire provincial. Un confrère un peu malin leur a demandé (en blaguant sans doute!) s'ils venaient vérifier si le P. Hector se comportait bien en terre québécoise. Nous étions heureux aussi

d'accueillir ces derniers jours Jean-Yves Rivard, venu de Cap-de-la-Madeleine participer à la rencontre des salésiens coopérateurs. Lors de cette rencontre chez Mme E. Bourgault qui nous accueille toujours si chaleureusement, le P. Roméo les a entretenus sur les sujets suivants : le Chapitre Général des sœurs salésiennes, le projet d'unification de la province canadienne à celle de N.Y., le congrès des Coopérateurs tenu récemment au Mexique, et une couple d'articles du *Projet de Vie Apostolique (PVA)*.

Une couple de choses au sujet du «*merger*» avec la province salésienne de l'est des USA, et du congrès au Mexique. Notre communauté de Sherbrooke, comme chaque autre communauté du Canada, a tenu deux rencontres afin de faire des recommandations sur ce projet d'unification. Ces suggestions et points de vue sont acheminés au centre provincial de Montréal où ils seront discutés lors d'une rencontre conjointe des deux communautés en présence de notre supérieur régional, le P. Estéban Ortiz, à la mi-novembre au *Centre des Jeunes*. La même démarche sera suivie à Toronto le lendemain par les communautés de Toronto, Edmonton et Surrey, L'unification est prévue pour le 1^{er} juillet 2009, en même temps que l'entrée en fonction d'un nouveau Provincial, lequel sera le supérieur des salésiens du Canada et de l'est des USA. C'est l'heure de la mondialisation. Il est plus juste de dire que la motivation première, c'est de renforcer et de faire fructifier davantage le charisme salésien en Amérique du Nord.

Quant au congrès des coopérateurs, il s'est déroulé à Amatitán, près de la ville de Guadalajara, au Mexique, du 15 au 19 octobre. La délégation canadienne était composée de 3 coopérateurs/trices, Carla Comin de Surrey, qui représentait Pierre Larocque comme coordinateur provincial (qui se trouvait en Inde à ce moment-là), Michel Jobin, du centre St. Benedict de Toronto, de Johanne Carpentier, du centre Ste-Claire de Montréal et du P. Roméo Trottier, délégué national pour les sdb. Les buts principaux de ce 1^{er} congrès de notre nouvelle région Interamérique étaient d'étudier la nouvelle structure à la lumière du *Projet de Vie Apostolique* et d'élire les divers responsables (voir l'article *Congrès Coopérateurs au Mexique* dans ce no).

Le froid de l'hiver est à nos portes, mais nous envisageons avec joie l'arrivée dans une vingtaine de jours de notre portion de soleil de la Floride : plus de 10 000 caisses d'oranges et de pamplemousses. Cela chassera le virus du froid.

=====

SURREY, B.C. This colourful month certainly brought Indian summer and all the beauty of this fall season to our parish surroundings and countryside. The weather with its cold mornings, warm and rainy days and frosty nights and chill has made the sap move in our many maple trees to enhance their glory. God is gracious!

On the parish map of activities, numerous workshops, parish assemblies and council meetings and the sacraments have taken place including the Chaldean Bible Study Course every Friday in the Don Bosco Gym meeting rooms. More recently, the English Bible Study Program got underway with the guidance of Fr. Dave. He also attended the *Youth for Christ Leadership Camp* and their leadership retreat.

October 5 saw the Pro-Life Chain happen along King George Highway for an hour's duration with the support of many parishioners and our neighbouring parishes for this important cause. Provincial elections also got underway, which had us voting at our local Forsyth Road Elementary School.

One of Holy Cross's tenth grade students accidentally took her own life in early October, and the concelebrated Funeral Mass, which Fr. Mario and Fr. Dave attended, was held at St. Matthew's Parish next to the high school. It was a sad farewell, and guidance counsellors were called in to accompany those students and her classmates needing shock and grief therapy.

Thanksgiving had a meaningful display set up in front of the main altar by Bro. Jerry with two autumn wreaths on both the commentator's and lector's stands to coordinate this colourful remembrance over this holiday weekend. We had three morning Masses with choirs singing with full musical accompaniment. Our Thanksgiving dinner was prepared by Fr. Dave, and the turkey by one of our gracious parishioners.

From the evening of the 17th thru 19th at Rosemary Heights Retreat Center, Fr. Dave and Bro. Jerry along with 55 *Faith and Light* participants did a weekend retreat on the theme of prayer, presented by Bro. Jerry in three talks, with arts and crafts in the Good Shepherd Meeting Room. Fr. Dave presented an instructional Benediction service, explanatory Mass, and was available for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, was the main celebrant for concluding concelebrated Mass and farewell blessing. Some of the participants came from Bellingham in Washington State, and still others from as far away as Powell River, B.C., and two ferry rides totalling a five-hour travel period. These special-need adults also came in their wheelchairs, with their caregivers. Their participation was “blessed-filled” and enthusiastic. This retreat was sponsored by a grant given by the diocese through *Project Advance to Faith and Light* for this specific purpose. There was also a main representative from that program who came all the way from Calgary to observe and partake in this noteworthy event.

In the meantime, Fr. Mario spoke to the *Couples for Christ* and *Handmaids of the Lord* at their respective gatherings at our facilities over two different weekends. The *Focolari* also had their meeting with their superiors here on October 4, and Fr. Mario also addressed them. He also has been tackling our microphone system in the church, as on various occasions it suddenly just conks out. So, he has been trying to rectify this problem and improve the speaker system.

With Fr. Jan’s birthday on Sunday, the 26th, and two of our staff co-workers birthdays around the same date, we anticipated all three by enjoying a staff birthday party luncheon on the 24th. Bro. Jerry decorated the dining room table, set the place mats and purchased the birthday cake, cards, giant size sandwich, made the tossed salad, and bought their gifts. Fr. Jan with joy and painstaking dedication prepared the special borsch soup and Polish cold cuts for this special celebration. A fun time was had by the 15 who attended.

October 21 was a sad day for OLG Parish as our 98-year-old senior parishioner and heirloom, Mr. Peter Boden, who lived and built his family home across the

street from the parish, died. He was born in Tyrol, Romania, and met his future wife of over 62 years at the then-known parish CYO. He graciously donated some of the land for the school, and was active in the *Knights of Columbus* just as his wife was an active member of the *Catholic Women’s League*. A funeral Mass with all the Salesians present was celebrated, at which the school children sang, and later everyone was invited to the Don Bosco Gym for lunch. The *K of C* formed the honour guard as *Knights of the Altar*, five strong, served the Mass. Later that evening the Salesians joined the Boden Family for a catered roast beef supper across the street. (In 2003 Bro. Jerry had recorded Mr. & Mrs. Peter Boden on the history of OLG and its early beginnings. Fr. Mario made six CDs of that interview so that their four children and their families could enjoy a copy for prosperity).

A health update on Fr. John Basso: presently, he concelebrates at the morning Mass, which is a good sign of his improvement. He has his blood pressure taken daily by a nurse, one of our parishioners. This still fluctuates from high to low, and is not as steady as he would like it to be. On occasions, the anxiety attacks return, but not as frequently as they used to. He still hears confessions and sometimes helps with the distribution of communion, all depending on his strength at that time. At times his weakness and tiredness are noticeable. Please continue to accompany him with your supportive prayer.

Fr. Jan has been busy visiting the sick, saying Mass at the nursing homes, and did at least three Polish funerals this month. He still prepares his family theme bulletins and certificates on St. Paul, while attending to the running of the Saturday Polish Language School.

October 31 ushered in the celebration of Halloween by OLG School children. Dressed in various disguises, shapes, sizes and costumes, they attended the children’s school Mass celebrated by Fr. Dave. Later in the day, the school auditorium celebrated the occasion with a costume parade. The most colourful and best disguised youngster, to the amusement of all the participants, including the

teachers, won with “trick or treats.” A safe, fun time was had by all on this feast of All Hallows’ Eve.

CONGRÈS COOPÉRATEURS AU MEXIQUE

Les salésiens coopérateurs ont célébré du 15 au 19 octobre leur congrès régional, le 1^{er} depuis que la région anglophone et la région Pacifique Nord se sont unies pour former une nouvelle région appelée l’Inter-Amérique. Faut-il préciser que cette nouvelle circonscription n’est pas mince chose? Elle comprend le Canada, les É.U., les Antilles (République Dominicaine, Haïti, Cuba, Porto Rico), le Mexique et les 6 pays de l’Amérique Centrale.

Le congrès s’est tenu à Amatitán, un site merveilleux à quelque 60 km de Guadalajara. Cette région de l’État de Jalisco se distingue par la culture de *l’agave azul*, la plante qui produit la tequila, presque un symbole national du Mexique. Cette maison salésienne, *Casa de Bethsaida*, centre de rencontres, de retraites et de congrès, est entourée de ces plantes qui ont l’aspect de cactus géants.

Le programme du congrès a débuté à Tlaquepaque, dans la chapelle de l’aspirantat salésien, par la célébration eucharistique présidée par le P. Salvador Cleofás Murguía, provincial des sdb du Mexique-GDL. Suivit une fête de bienvenue auprès de l’Institut de Théologie Salésien, digne de l’accueil proverbial mexicain, caractérisée par des chants et des danses folkloriques et, bien sûr, la coupe de tequila. Y participaient les consuls de la République Dominicaine et du Nicaragua.

La congrès avait pour thème : *Vers une plus grande significativité avec le Projet de Vie Apostolique*. L’un des buts principaux du congrès fut la mise en place des structures de gouvernement et d’animation de la nouvelle région par l’élection des nouveaux membres du Conseil régional. Parmi ces derniers furent élus le conseiller mondial, M. Herman Lopez Castro (il siègera au conseil général ou mondial), Beatriz Merchant, secrétaire, Angel Orsenigo, administrateur, Michel Jobin, chargé de la formation, Elizabeth Gamarra, responsable du Secteur (*area*) Nord (Canada et USA) et Alberto Padilla, responsable du Secteur Sud (le reste de la

région)..Feront également partie de cet exécutif régional 2 délégués, l’un sdb, l’autre fma. Entre coopérateurs et délégués sdb et fma, il y avait quelque 80 participants. Les 3 documents principaux élaborés au cours du congrès furent *le Règlement du congrès*, *le Directoire*, et *les Lignes d’action*. La langue de travail était l’espagnol.

Il y eut 3 conférences en plus des ateliers : *Au Cœur de la Vie, où sommes-nous?* par Daisy Ampudia, de Panama, *L’Essence de notre Vocation, un Appel de Dieu*, par le P. Alejandro Zepeda, délégué de Mexique-Nord, *Vers une plus grande Significativité Aujourd’hui à la Lumière du PVA*, par Gisela Mejia, du conseil provincial des Antilles.

Le P. Stjepan Bolkovac, délégué mondial venu de Rome, fut d’une aide précieuse pour clarifier des questions d’ordre tant juridique que charismatique, en plus de mettre de l’entrain avec sa personnalité joviale. Avant l’élection des responsables, il fit une excellente présentation en *PowerPoint* de la formation et des tâches, au niveau régional, de la Consulte, du Congrès et du Secrétariat Exécutif.

De vibrants hommages et témoignages de reconnaissance furent rendus aux 2 conseillers mondiaux dont les mandats venaient à terme : Tomás Polanco, de la République Dominicaine, et Marlene Frederick, des É.U. Ils ont accompli un excellent travail, dévoué et consciencieux, pendant ces 7 dernières années, aux niveaux régional et mondial.

Il y eut, bien sûr, des moments de détente aussi, surtout aux repas et entre les sessions, si longues furent-elles! Le gros de notre travail étant déjà terminé vendredi soir (sauf les élections et le vote final des 3 documents- ce qui se fera dans la soirée de samedi et dimanche am)), on avait planifié une excursion à GDL samedi. Une visite du centre historique très intéressante, puis l’eucharistie à 13h au *Colegio Anáhuac Chapalita*, présidée par le Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iñiguez, archevêque du Guad. Puis on nous servit au même endroit un délicieux repas «au goût mexicain» et qu’elle ne fut pas notre surprise de voir arriver les mêmes Mariachi qu’au souper d’ouverture à Tlaquepaque quelques jours auparavant.- de jeunes adultes très talentueux et *simpáticos* Ont contribué beaucoup au

have 5 children; Vicky and Chris have 6, and Paul and Emma have 8. I once teased my siblings about making sure they would have all the kids I'd never have... and it looks like they took me at my word!

About your childhood and youth, what you specialised in as a student...?

As a child, I truly enjoyed school. Besides taking my studies really seriously, I always got involved in extracurricular activities. My first foray was acting in school plays (I was Frosty the Snowman in grade 3, the Grinch in grade 8, Professor Van Helsing in *Dracula Baby* in grade 12, Uncle Braso in *Cavallaria Rusticana* in university). In high school I played guitar in 2 bands, ran track and field, and served as student council treasurer and president. I had some early practice in public speaking as valedictorian at my elementary and high school graduations. Although it was against school rules, I also played euchre in the library during high school spares.

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

I met the Salesians when they came to St. Benedict when I was 18. Before that, I had never even heard of St. John Bosco. Fr. Ron Quenneville was my first "close encounter of the strange kind," and I never looked back. Don Bosco's centenary year, 1988, was central to my vocational awareness. With Br. Bernie I attended the centenary celebrations in New York City and was moved by the vibrant Salesian youth ministry. Later that year, while completing my final semester of law school at the University of Montreal, I had a "St. Paul experience." I encountered the Lord in a personal way and he literally knocked me off my horse. It was at St. Joseph's Oratory that I first told Fr. Kelly of my desire to become a Salesian. The confreres nurtured my vocation with love, wisdom and patience. As they initiated me into the youth apostolate at Don Bosco High school, SummerDaze Camp at St. Benedict, and Bosco Bicycle in Sherbrooke, I grew in my conviction that God had brought me "home" to the Salesians.

Where were you ordained and what has been your Salesian itinerary?

I was ordained where I was baptized, where I received my first Holy Communion, where I was confirmed, and where I now serve as pastor: St. Benedict Parish in Toronto. From my home parish, I left for my novitiate in Sherbrooke in 1991. I did my practical training at Don Bosco Secondary school in Toronto from 1992 to 1995. Then I was off for my 3-year Roman holiday, where I studied theology at the Salesian Pontifical University. This culminated in my diaconal ordination at *Sacro Cuore* in Rome, in June 1998, which Fr. Richard, Fr. Romano and Fr. Basso attended. The cherry on the cake was one year at *All Hallows' College* in Dublin for my Master's in Pastoral Leadership. After ordination in 1999, my honeymoon assignment was at Maria Ausiliatrice in Montreal, where I served as associate pastor for 8 years, learning at the feet of Don Giuseppe Costamagna the art of being pastor. I've just completed my first year as pastor at St. Benedict.

If you were to identify three values that you cherish as a priest, what would they be?

As a priest, I hold very precious the fact that people come to me (us) with their "Good Fridays" in their lives, in the humble expectation that, as a priest, I can offer some encouragement along the way to "Easter." Being invited onto the sacred ground of people's lives in the name of Christ is both humbling and inspiring.

I cherish deeply the ministry of healing that the Lord works through me in the sacrament of confession. As a confessor, I am at once joyful to be part of the healing process for the penitent, and encouraged by their example to go to confession myself.

Finally, when I celebrate the Eucharist, I experience a deep sense of being "father," giving the best possible nourishment to those entrusted to my care.

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

As a Salesian priest, I try to give the best of myself in response to Jesus' invitation to "let the

children come to me, for unto such as them is the kingdom of God.” To be active in the Church’s mission towards the young, with all their gifts and challenges, gives me a privileged vantage point for my priesthood. Could there be a more important and timely vocation than trying to bring the “eternal truths” of God into the “nano-second” world of the young?

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

One of my most meaningful experiences would have to be the *Don Bosco Trek*, a modern adaptation of Don Bosco’s *passeggiata*. On the Trek, 10 young men and I walked 250 km from Ottawa to Montreal, over 12 days. An apt metaphor for life, the pilgrimage allowed us to share an intense experience of Christian community built around a common challenge, prayer, daily Eucharist, confession, and faith-sharing led by the young men. To live this adventure with the young men allowed them to see the priest in a new light, and gave me the possibility of literally journeying with the young up close and personal.

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

For us Salesians: *Somewhere in the tension between memory and imagination, we find our way of being Don Bosco for the young today.*

For the young: *God has put you here for a reason. Do you know what it is?*

**JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE
DE NAISSANCE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Jerry Harasym: Nov. 12

Joseph Occhio: Nov. 17

SALESIAN FEASTS

Nov. 5: Commemoration of the *deceased members and benefactors of the Salesian Family* : (one Mass to be celebrated in each Salesian house)

Nov. 6: Blessed Henry Saiz and 62 Spanish martyrs

Nov. 15: Blessed Magdalena Morano, FMA
Nov. 25: Ven. Mamma Margaret Bosco: Mass for deceased parents of Salesians.