

# Nouvelles Salésiennes Salesian News

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Bulletin mensuel électronique SDBsem@videotron.ca

**TORONTO-HAMILTON**. Like all the Salesian communities, we spent most of this month working on the final drafts of our themes in preparation for our upcoming provincial chapter. This has been a good Salesian learning experience.

Our community hosted Fr. Cecil Noronha on February 7 on the occasion of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He celebrated Holy Mass with us. Fr. Bernie Gilliece, who was visiting with us, gave the homily. This was followed by a supper meal in a fraternal atmosphere.

Fr. Joseph Occhio and Fr. Joseph Ho represented our community at a gathering held at Transfiguration Church to greet our new Archbishop, His Excellency Thomas Collins. He comes to us from Edmonton.

Maria Mancini, our residence cook, lost her mother Angela in Italy at the age of 96 on February 9. Our community held a memorial Mass with her family members the next day.

Over 50 teenagers from 7 different schools participated in our second Annual Salesian Leadership Retreat at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe from February 16 to 18. Everyone profited greatly from the experience.

Two Masses were held for the entire student body and staff of Don Bosco Secondary in their auditorium to honour St. John Bosco. The Masses were presided over by Fr. George, who also delivered the homily on Salesian spirituality. During these

days the priests of our community are involved with three grade schools as well as Don Bosco Sec. for the Lenten reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation. We know how dear this sacrament was to the heart of Don Bosco.

Mr. Frankie Iacobazzi represented our Toronto-Hamilton community at the prechapter meeting for lay collaborators held in Montreal on Feb. 26.

Mr. Michel Jobin, our local coordinator for the Salesian Cooperators, will be leaving soon for a six-week stay among the poor of Haiti. We wish him a safe and successful journey.

Our confrere Bro. Bernie Dubé has been forced to one month of rest due to a nasty fall on the ice near our residence. He broke a rib and cracked a few others. It is quite painful and will be slow to mend. Please keep him in your prayer.

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SHEBROOKE. Je rédige ces quelques lignes pendant la semaine de relâche. Nos adeptes de sports d'hiver, personnel et élèves, s'en donnent sans doute à cœur joie sur les magnifiques pentes des environs : ski alpin, ski de fond, planche, etc. Pendant que les hispanophiles des classes d'espagnol de Patricia sont sous un ciel plus bienveillant, explorant la *Route Maya* au Mexique- un groupe de 35 jeunes. Autour du Salésien, des amoncellements monstres de belle neige blanche ; d'ici quelques semaines, elle perdra sa blancheur immaculée! Le Fr. Marcel dit et redit à qui veut l'entendre que

la marmotte nous a trompés cette année. Ou serait-ce que les changements climatiques ont déréglé son flair prophétique?

Le 10 février, le P. Trottier se trouvait à participer Montréal pour au conseil provincial des salésiens. Le soir même, la paroisse Ste-Claire clôturait les fêtes de son centenaire par la Fête des Retrouvailles sous la présidence d'honneur des PP. G. Parent et R. Trottier. Ce dernier tint le discours d'occasion, rendant hommage, entre autres, aux anciens curés salésiens, défunts et vivants. Le lendemain, il descendait en auto à Stony Point, à une demi-heure de NY City, en compagnie du P. Authier, Provincial, et du Fr. Bernie Dubé, pour la rencontre du SNAC (Salesian North American Councils —quelqu'un faisait remarquer que ça fait un peu loin pour un snack!), c.-à-d. les conseils provinciaux de San Francisco, NY et Montréal.

La 1ère journée rassemblait les conseils SDB, la 2ème, les 6 conseils, ajoutant les 3 C.P. des sœurs salésiennes (San Antonio, Texas; Haledon, N.J.; et Montréal). La dernière journée pour certains se déroulait à Orange, N.J., où se trouve la communauté de formation initiale. Nous y avons rencontré notre prénovice montréalais Luigi et notre torontois, Jim Zettel, qui termine son postnoviciat. Revenus jeudi soir, nous avons pu constater l'abondance de neige déversée sur le Québec pendant notre absence.

Durant ce mois, nous avons rappelé la mémoire de Mme Rose Cossette, décédée il y a 10 ans le 16 /02, et du P. Maurice Petit, décédé également en '97, le 1 mars. Commémorer la mémoire de ceux qui nous ont quittés constitue une leçon de vie.

Il y a quelque temps nous avons accueilli Mgr E. Paulhus, auteur et éducateur bien connu. Il a présidé l'eucharistie communautaire et a partagé le souper avec nous. Lors de rencontres et de conférences à travers le monde, il eut l'occasion de visiter plusieurs maisons salésiennes. Il nous a présenté et offert sa dernière publication, *Cheminement vers la Maturité Chrétienne*.

Depuis quelques semaines, Louis-Philippe Renaud, nous arrivant de Rimouski, vit avec la communauté. Il est en stage à Sherbrooke jusqu'en juillet, accompagnant les jeunes de la rue.

Pour que notre prochain Chapitre Provincial puisse profiter de l'apport expérience et réflexion—de nos collaborateurs, s'est tenue à Montréal récemment une rencontre des collaborateurs laïques de nos œuvres de Sherbrooke, Montréal et Toronto. M. Raymond Lepage, dg du Salésien, a représenté ses collègues à cette table

Samedi le 3 mars étaient célébrées à St-Sévérin-de-Proulxville, en Mauricie, les funérailles de Daniel Trottier, frère du P. Roméo, décédé à l'âge de 51 ans le 24 février. Sont venus de Sherbrooke le P. Paul Cossette, les Frères Richard et Gauthier et l'abbé Paul Brault, et de Montréal, le P. Joseph Costamagna, représentant le P. Provincial, Sr. Micheline Bertrand, FMA, accompagnée de 3 coopérateurs/trices. En ces moments douloureux, nous nous manifestons d'une façon particulière comme membres d'une grande famille.

SURREY, B.C. February 1 brought us some warm, Spring-like weather, while Bro. Steve caught West Jet's first flight of the day to Toronto to take in and participate at his brother's weekend wedding. Some time later, Fr. John Basso also flew to Toronto to visit his aunt who is very sick and not expected to live.

February 3 ushered in the feast of St. Blase and the blessing of the throats after all the Masses. *Faith and Light* also held their

fund raising supper in the Don Bosco Youth Center. Door prizes, as well as a 50/50 raffle were held. Over 300 were in attendance and enjoyed the disc jockey's group dancing specials. Bro. Jerry did the grace before meals, and acted the role of the Pope in mime that was later performed by the disabled and adults. He was teased with the title *Pope Jerry I*.

During the first part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week, the parishioners experienced a pre-Lenten Retreat given by Fr. Fernando Suarez, CC, and Fr. Jeff Shannon, CC (Companions of the Cross). They preached to an overflowing church. It was so packed on Wednesday evening for the closing healing Mass that there was only room for a single-file procession of the altar servers, readers and concelebrants down the main aisle to the sanctuary. It lasted close to three hours. From here they took the ferry to Victoria, B.C., where they preached at St. Andrew's Cathedral Church, then back to Immaculate Conception Church in Delta, B.C. (our neighbouring parish), returning to us on March 1 for a few days' rest before heading to Calgary.

On Ash Wednesday all personnel were on deck for the distribution of ashes during four English Masses, two in the morning and two in the evening, with a fifth being the Polish Mass beginning at 8 p.m. Ashes were also distributed to all our CCD classes, and RCIA people.

Every Friday during Lent we have the Stations of the Cross beginning at 7 p.m., followed by the Holy Mass. The Polish Stations begin around 8 p.m. followed by the Chaldean Rite Stations at 9 p.m. Of course every Wednesday evening is our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena and Mass, plus the various parish groups, choirs, etc. with their regular meetings, practices and training for the reception of the sacraments.

Revenue Canada is again offering its services to our seniors, new immigrants, students and the poor to file their tax report at OLGC Mary Help of Christians Hall every Saturday.

Although a short month, it has been a busy one with everyone on the go for souls. "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." (Romans 10:8)

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## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: FR BERNARD GILLIECE

Fr. Bernie, you have been a Salesian for over 50 years. How did you come to know about the Salesians?

I first came to know of the Salesians when Fr. Pierre Decarie came to Montreal to look for vocations. He got the list of all the students who graduated with honours from grade eight and who were accepted to Catholic high schools. The list was published every July in the Montreal Gazette. My friend, Tom Petitclerc, was listed and his parents got a call from Fr. Decarie to visit the family and speak to Tom. Tom asked me to go along with him to meet Fr. Decarie. He asked Tom if he ever thought of becoming a priest. He said no. Would he like to go to a high school seminary in New Jersey and see if he liked it? He said that if his mother approved he would go. Then Fr. Decarie turned to me and asked if I would like to go also. I said that if my parents didn't object, I'd go with Tom. My father was against the idea, as he said I was too young to leave and go so far away for high school. But my mother prevailed on him to let me go, and if I didn't like it the door was always open to return.

So I suppose you two went ahead as planned?

Well, we got our passports and were to leave Montreal by train on September 7 for New York City and then to Newton, N.J. Two days before leaving, Tom backed out and Fr. Decarie asked me if I still wanted to go. I said I would give it a try. And that is the way God hooked me for the Salesians, as a substitute for Tom. Back then it was real strict, but we didn't know the difference. I did my four years of high school in two different places, Suffern, N.Y., and West Haverstraw, N.Y.

Your high school finished, you gave Salesian life a real try and went on?

Yes, I then went to Newton, N.J., for novitiate and took my first temporary vows on Sept. 8, 1950, and finished my college degree of BA in the humanities and was assigned to teach for three years in Jacquet River, N.B., in a boarding/day school with French boarders and English day students from the surrounding area. I taught in the English section of the school. Making my perpetual vows on Sept. 8, 1956, I was off to our theologate in Aptos, Cal., where for four vears I studied the various disciplines in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. I was ordained on June 4, 1960, and assigned by Fr. Felix Penna, the provincial, to be the vice-principal at St. Patrick School in Sherbrooke, Que. For two years I administered and taught and enjoyed every minute of the time. I was then assigned to St. Louis de Kent, N.B., one year, where I taught English and religion.

I believe that you exercised your Salesian apostolate also in the States. How did that come about?

Fr. August Bosio, the provincial, saw a need to have a Canadian priest in the juniorate in Ipswich, Mass.. to give support to the Canadian high school seminarians who were studying there since there was no Canadian

seminary. I was appointed prefect of studies for two years and then became director for the next three years. These were happy and productive years, helping young men discern their vocation in life. We did not have much as regards an adequate facility, but the spirit was great and the energy level was high.

Was your desire to eventually come back to Canada?

Indeed I wanted to come back to Canada and was assigned to be prefect of studies at St. Mary's Junior High in Edmonton. For the two years I was there, I enjoyed the proverbial Western hospitality and treasured the time I spent helping youngsters who were in many ways disadvantaged to get an education and life skills to prepare them for life. I went back to USA in 1970 as a teacher in Salesian High School in New Rochelle, N.Y., where with a fellow Canadian, Fr. John Vetere, I taught French and English literature. Fr. John and I wanted to get back to Canada, and the Montreal Catholic School Commission offered us jobs as chaplains in high schools. I spent six years as a chaplain and teacher of religion at Msgr. Harold Doran High School. Then in 1977, the call came to go to Toronto and take over a high school operated by Basilian Fr. Thomas Mohan. Together with Fr. Quenneville and Fr. Bruce Craig, I went and taught one year at Fr. Henry Carr High School and then went with Fr. Mohan to start a new high school named Don Bosco Secondary, which opened its doors in 1978. For 18 years I taught and was principal of Don Bosco Secondary through its three phases of existence. First on Dixon Road for then at Transfiguration three years, Elementary for two years, and finally in the once public school of Keiller McKay Collegiate.

What do you consider as the most memorable experiences of your Salesian life as an educator?

The best times of my life as an educator were spent in Toronto, where we fought the government for funds for a new school until the Davis government forced the Etobicoke Public School Board to vacate one of its schools due to dwindling enrolment and give it to the Metropolitan Separate School Board for the students of the Don Bosco school community. It was during that time also that the government also decided to fully fund Catholics schools up to Grade 13. In 1995 Fr. Richard Authier asked me to come to Edmonton and start a new career as pastor of St. Dominic Savio Parish. The church was renovated in 1997, and it's been 12 years that I've been privileged to be the pastor of this great and wonderful community. The future is in God's hands. I thank God every day for His many blessings and especially for the people He sent me throughout my life.

In your many years in the field of education, how would you rate the relevance of Don Bosco's system for today's Canadian youth?

Don Bosco's system of education is most valuable in forming friendships with young people, where there is a trust shared by young people. They are able to open up and seek help when they need it. There is no need of physical threats or punishment when young people implicitly trust their mentors.

Judging from your experience, what are the essential values that a young Salesian should be attentive to in his formation?

The values of trust and a prayerful attitude. A prayer life is necessary if there is to be a permanent influence on young people.

May I let you know, in case you are not aware of it, Fr. Bernie, that you are considered one of the "wise men" among the Canadian confreres. Thank you for having shared these thoughts with the readers of **Salesian News**.

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# VATICAN. Les jeunes, une priorité pour les prêtres

Au cours d'une conversation spontanée avec les prêtres du diocèse de Rome, Benoît XVI les a exhortés à rendre l'attention pour les jeunes une priorité. Selon ZENIT, Agence internationale d'information catholique, en répondant aux questions des prêtres, le Saint-Père a affirmé: "Nous savons que la jeunesse doit être vraiment une priorité de notre travail pastoral, parce que la jeunesse vit en un monde lointain de Dieu...Trouver dans le contexte culturel actuel la rencontre avec le Christ, la vie chrétienne et la vie de la foi, c'est très difficile....Les jeunes nécessitent beaucoup d'accompagnement pour pouvoir réellement trouver ce chemin." En définitive, a-t-il expliqué, il faut faire comprendre aux jeunes que le Christ n'est pas un grand prophète. En lui, nous voyons le Visage de Dieu, le Visage du pardon et de l'amour.

ANS - 23 février 2007

## **ROME.** A Seminar to improve the quality of Salesian information.

The formation Seminar for Provincial Delegates for Social Communication and ANS Correspondents from the Regions of Italy-Middle East, North Europe and West Europe has begun. It was opened with a video message recorded by Fr. Pascual Chávez to the 43 participants. "Yours is very much Salesian work!" the Rector Major declared. "Don Bosco was convinced that it was not enough to do good: this needed to be made known. Social communication is one of the four great areas of the Salesian Mission." Beginning the practical work, Fr. Tarcisio Scaramussa, councillor for social communication, said, "I invite you to think on a large scale with the broad vision that Don Bosco would have had of the situation in Europe and of the young around the world. Don Bosco had grasped the power that information had in animating his spiritual family and in mobilizing society in his mission on behalf of the young." Following the careful evaluation and reorganisation that ANS has been conducting, it is becoming an almost daily online news service and a means of communication for the Salesian Congregation. Thanks to the work undertaken in the central editorial office and to the net work of a variety of correspondents and collaborators, ANS is providing news and information about what is happening, and events and ideas associated with the central offices of government and animation of the Congregation; the life and involvement of Salesians and of the various groups of the Salesian Family; young people; matters concerning education and training; and issues of the Church especially as regards Consecrated Life, the young, education and culture.... The programme for the days will include training modules on various topics and workshops on communication and journalism especially for the web.

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## JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

#### de naissance:

Romano Venturelli : 7/03 Bernard Dubé : 19/03

#### de profession religieuse :

Mario Villaraza: 1/04

#### d'Ordination Sacerdotale :

Roméo Trottier: 5/03 Ivan Dobrsek: 16/03 Georges Parent: 21/03 Joseph Costamagna: 26/03

Frank Kelly: 3/04 Joseph Ho: 3/04

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