



Nouvelles Salésiennes *Salesian News*

Avril 2008 April No.104

Bulletin mensuel électronique
sdbsem@videotron.ca

LETTERS FROM ROME

Friday March 14, 2008

Greetings to each of you once more,

Week Three might be described as our first taste of sustained commission meetings. The commissions are multilingual discussion groups of about 50 members that discuss and amend the working document of the chapter. The purpose of so doing is to gather the input of the members present on the theme of the meeting: “Give me souls, take away the rest!” Salesians will remember that the working document is divided into 5 parts: ***Return to Don Bosco – Urgent Need for Evangelization – Need for Vocation Ministry – Evangelical Poverty – New Frontiers***. It is both a fascinating and challenging process: fascinating to see the points of view of Salesians from all over the world, and challenging because we are supposed to come to a shared consensus. For example: What does evangelization mean in a Catholic country, a de-Christianized country, a Muslim country and in a dictatorship? It never ceases to amaze me how much some Salesians have been heroic in their desire to make Christ and his Kingdom known in every conceivable setting. We have it easy, maybe too easy!

During this week’s discussions, I have been impressed by the following thoughts:

- A “Return to Don Bosco” means a return to the young. His whole life was dedicated to the needs of the poorest & most fragile among the young.
- We re-discover the Don Bosco of today in the Rule of Life that he confided to us. “If you loved me in the past, love me now by the faithful observance of our Rule.”

- To respond to the “Urgent Need for Evangelization” we must first let ourselves be re-evangelized by giving absolute priority in our lives to the Lord Jesus.
- For Salesians, Evangelization and Education must always go together. Education must be open to the Transcendent & Evangelization must touch upon real life issues.
- All of life is to be seen as a “Vocation”: “What is God calling me to in my life?” Whether as lay people or religious, we are called to be Apostles of Christ.

This week there are *two* pictures both related to St. Dominic Savio. The first is of the young Saint himself; the second of the statue of Mary in the Chapel of St. Francis de Sales, where he and a small group of students dedicated their lives to Mary. Here are Don Bosco’s words about this event: “The evening of December 8, 1856, Dominic went to the front of the altar of Mary and said these precise words many times over: ‘Mary, I give you my heart, make it your own. Jesus and Mary, be always my friends.’ This youth group had only the best of the young at the Oratory as its members, who helped each other walk the path of Christian perfection and ministry among their companions.”

I wish each of you a Blessed Holy Week. In particular may you really live the events of Good Friday when Jesus dies on the cross to show His love for us.

Take care,
Fr. Richard in Rome!

+++++

Good Friday, March 21, 2008

Hello once more from Rome.

Chapter-wise, this week was one of meetings for six hours a day in commissions & general assemblies! Personally & spiritually, the two highlights for me came from two homilies: one on the Saturday before Palm Sunday & one on Holy Thursday.

On the Saturday before Palm Sunday we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph. We had a special guest, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State and “2nd in command” after the Holy Father. He is a Salesian and his joy at being once more among his brothers was palpable. His homily drew a parallel between the dreams of St. Joseph, those of Don Bosco and our own. St. Joseph’s dream of a simple and happy married life was changed by ***God’s dream for him***, that he cooperate in bringing Jesus the Savior into this world. Don Bosco’s life as a poor peasant boy was changed by his dream at nine years of age when ***God asked him*** to “father” numerous young people into the faith. The question for us then becomes: “What are my dreams, & do they take into account ***God’s dreams for me?***” God doesn’t always ask us in advance for our consent. And God does not give without taking away. We can only enter into the logic of God if we are willing to lose our life in order to find it. But is this not the heart of our faith that is expressed during the Easter event of Jesus’ self-emptying death on the cross in order to be filled with New Life on Easter morn!

Then on Holy Thursday the Rector Major presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. He also washed the feet of twelve chapter members. “The greatest among you is to become the least!” His inspiring homily had two key ideas: ***Life as Service & Becoming Eucharist***.

Life as Service: Jesus said: “For this I have come: to serve and to give my life.” We are called to imitate Him. To serve is a

complete project of life, embracing the whole of one’s existence. It is question of perceiving that life is not centered on personal success, professional development, or accomplishing a personal project but of making a gift of ourselves for others! We have to have the attitude of the Good Samaritan who saw the need of the person abandoned on the side of the road, drew near to him & assumed responsibility for him.

Becoming Eucharist: In the Eucharist Jesus becomes bread that is broken for us and wine that is poured out for us. “Do this in memory of me” does not only apply to the Mass itself. It means that we are called to give our lives as Jesus did so that others may have life in abundance. In other words, to become Eucharist ourselves. No matter what our state in life, young adult, spouse, religious, this is Jesus’ way of life for us.

That we may all be blessed with the faith necessary to live in this way is my Easter wish and prayer for each of you! Happy Easter!

Fr. Richard in Rome!

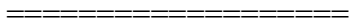
TORONTO-HAMILTON. Fr. Dobrsek is adapting quite well to his new home at St. Joseph’s Villa in Hamilton. Fr. Drago has been keeping regularly in touch with him. Our Easter celebrations were enhanced by the presence of His Excellency Bishop John Boissonneau, who presided over three of our liturgies. The Salesian Sisters of Marguerita Street welcomed us all for Easter prayer and dinner. We enjoyed each other’s presence as well as the plentiful meal and goodies.

Our Knights of Columbus council is now composed of 57 members. They held their first dinner-dance on March 15 at a St. Patrick’s Day celebration. Over 135 guests participated. Even Fr. George kicked up his heels. Bro. Bernie has initiated the project of the Squires in the parish with success. Over a dozen young people have joined thus far. They will be the youth wing of the Knights of Columbus.

On March 14 we held our second vocation evening, at which one young adult participated. Most of the participants are the fruit of our SLR retreats. A third evening will be held on April 19.

Fr. Frank Kelly has been spending time with us here at Don Bosco Residence while attending to some medical needs. He looks well rested as well as being his jolly ole self. -- Bro. Steve's recovery is progressing slowly. He has been a wonderful catalyst to our weekly community gatherings. He spent the Easter Triduum with his uncle-priest, who lives in the Passionist monastery in Pittsburgh, Pa. --Fr. Joe Ho has taken his task as pastor with "heart" in Fr. Mike's absence at GC26. His diligence, liturgical acumen and comic relief are much appreciated.

Our Salesian Family commission will animate its *Family Day* on Saturday May 24 at St. Benedict's church hall. About 50 members are expected for this ongoing formation day. Sister Cora Beboso, FMA, will give us a conference on Salesian spirituality.



EDMONTON, Savio Parish. We are very pleased to welcome our new youth minister, Amanda. She has been with us 2 months now. She has revived the Junior Youth Group that meets Wednesdays after school in the parish hall. It is for grades 3-6, and she has been getting very good turnouts (about 80-90 children). We look forward to more good things to come.

Fr. Bernie and Fr. Romano, with the assistance of several priests, were kept busy in our local elementary and junior high schools hearing Lenten confessions for the first 2 weeks of March. Fr. Bernie is now celebrating a Mass once a month on a Friday evening at Alberta Hospital (a psychiatric hospital). He continues to celebrate Mass twice a month at Miller Crossing Care Centre, and on March 13 he was also asked to fill in and say Mass at St. Michael's Extended Care.

During March, Fr. Bernie heard confessions at many of the neighboring parishes' penitential services in the evenings. Stations of the Cross continued on Friday evenings during March.

Holy Week started with the Chrism Mass on Monday, March 17. During the week Fr. Bernie went to St. Dominic School for a Holy Week celebration, and on Holy Thursday the junior high school came to the church for Stations of the Cross. Members of the RCIA/CIC volunteered for the Washing of the Feet during the Holy Thursday evening service. On Good Friday the church was packed to overflowing. We had a Taizé service in the evening that was very calming and peaceful. There was a very good turnout of volunteers on Saturday morning to clean and decorate the church for Easter. At 5:00 p.m. Fr. Bernie had the blessing of the Easter bread and baskets. This is becoming more and more popular every year. Our Easter Vigil started at 9:00 p.m. It was a little chilly outside for the blessing of the fire, so most of the congregation remained indoors. We had a beautiful liturgy with 9 baptisms (5 RCIA and 4 CIC).

Fr. Bernie was once again at the schools on March 25-26 for Easter celebrations. Our schools are on their spring break this last day of March/first week of April; so we can have a bit of a break!

SHERBROOKE. Discuter de température est souvent une *entrée* facile lors d'une conversation. Si on demeurait dans une région où le temps ne varie pas ou peu, ce serait plutôt ennuyant, mais ici au Canada, on penserait qu'on a même plus de 4 saisons--un peu comme les *dimensions* qui, avec l'avancée des sciences, en comptent plus que les 3 classiques! Oui, *entrée facile*, à condition de ne pas en rester là! J'écris ceci le dernier jour de mars : la neige est beaucoup plus abondante qu'à la fin de février l'an dernier. *Les sucres* (la fabrication du sirop

d'érable--pour l'information de nos lecteurs hors du Canada) commencent à peine. On prévoit encore quelques semaines de ski alpin pour les amateurs; remarquez que les Cantons de l'Est, ce n'est pas les Alpes. C'est le réchauffement de la planète, dit-on. Je n'y comprends rien!

Vie très active à l'école, même si le début du mois signalait la période de relâche (29/02-11/03). Nos jeunes et leurs accompagnateurs sont revenus enchantés et enthousiastes de leur **voyage**, les uns de l'Europe de l'Est, les autres de Marseille. Ceux de la 4^e sec. se préparent à visiter N.Y.City (3-5 avril) et à la mi-avril, pour la 3^e sec. ce sera Boston. Les 2^e sec. seront les hôtes de Toronto en mai. -- Le 18 mars à la Salle Père-Décarie eut lieu le lancement du **festival du théâtre**. La 1^{ère} pièce, *Le Dindon*, de Georges Feydeau --il y en aura cinq en tout--a été présentée le 28 mars par les 1^{ère} et 2^{ème} sec. Suivront *En Pièces Détachées*, de Michel Tremblay, *Les Sorcières de Salem*, d'Arthur Miller, *La Nuit de Valognes*, d'Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt et enfin--une nouveauté--celui des anciens, *Silence en Coulisse*.

Nos jeunes ont remporté un vif succès à ***l'Expo-sciences régionale*** au Centre Culturel de l'Université de Sherbrooke : en tout, 18 950\$ en prix et bourses. La Médaille d'or a été décernée à Guillaume Laliberté, sec. 4 (5480\$) et la Médaille d'argent à David Pellerin et Pierre-Marc Jauron, sec. 4 (6700\$). Ces 3 élèves furent sélectionnés pour le provincial. Onze autres de nos kiosques se sont partagé le reste de la somme.

Tous savent que le 17 mars est teinté de vert--en l'honneur de St. Patrick. Malheureusement depuis que George Harkins a quitté Sherbrooke pour Toronto en 2003, cette fête est peu soulignée chez nous, sauf par quelques biscuits verts : même pas une crème de menthe, oublions le café irlandais...!

Les membres de la communauté se sont joints à l'Église diocésaine pour les célébrations de la **Semaine Sainte**. D'abord pour la *Messe Chrismale* célébrée avec

grande solennité par Mgr André Gaumond à la basilique-cathédrale St-Michel le Mardi-St. Pour *La Cène du Seigneur*, nous étions dans notre paroisse St-Boniface et de nouveau à la cathédrale les jours suivants pour la *Commémoration de la Mort du Seigneur* et la *Veillée Pascale*. Le P. Trottier est allé à la paroisse Marie-Auxiliatrice de Montréal le samedi et dimanche. À Pâques comme aussi le dimanche précédent, aux Rameaux, il a célébré la messe en anglais au sous-sol de l'église pendant que le P. Luc célébrait à l'église même. C'est beau de célébrer dans un lieu bien rempli. La veille de Pâques, il y eut deux Veillées Pascales, l'une en anglais, l'autre en italien, et le jour même de Pâques, six messes. *Grosso modo*, plus de 4500 personnes participèrent à ces célébrations.

Nous retournions à la cathédrale le dimanche 30 mars puisqu'au cours de l'Eucharistie de la matinée, Mgr Gaumond donnait le sacrement de la **Confirmation** à une douzaine de nos élèves--1^e et 2^e sec.-- ainsi qu'à l'un de nos anciens maintenant au CEGEP. Ces élèves avaient été bien préparés par l'abbé Michel-André Chénard, responsable de pastorale au Séminaire.

Nous suivons avec attention le déroulement de notre **Chapitre Général** à Rome qui entre maintenant dans sa dernière semaine. Nos deux capitulaires, les PP. Richard Authier. et Mike Pace, sont peut-être déçus de n'avoir pas été élus au Conseil Général (!?), mais quant à nous, nous serons heureux de les revoir à la mi-avril. La joie était grande de savoir **Don Chavez** confirmé comme Recteur Majeur et **Don Bregolin** comme vicaire, ainsi que **Don Esteban Ortiz** comme notre supérieur régional. Espérons qu'ils n'auront pas trop de difficulté à entraîner les nouveaux conseillers (9 sur 14), plutôt jeunes en plus. Peut-être faut-il retourner au temps de Don Bosco pour retrouver un conseil aussi jeune. Élus par une assemblée de 232 capitulaires et suite à une démarche de discernement rigoureuse, on ne peut douter toutefois de leur compétence. Nous avons hâte de les connaître. Il faudra

inventer toutes sortes d'occasions pour les faire venir au Canada!

+++++

SURREY, B.C. March arrived like a lamb here in Surrey, but the mornings have been crisp, cold and wet, but by late afternoon the sun usually appears and warms its surroundings. In that light, our Spring flowers are already making their mark on our landscape, and the robins have returned too.

The afternoon of March 5 OLG School children had all the grades from K to 7 give a demonstration of their hip-hop dance routines that they had been learning from a guest teacher/instructor during these past, early days of the month. They were a fine display of talent, athleticism and coordination along side with precision and team work. Congratulations for their daring! Fr. John, Fr. Dave and Bro. Jerry were witnesses to this grand event.

The whole community the following day attended the clergy study day that was held at Our Lady of Fatima in Coquitlam. They were very informative sessions that lasted from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch in between. The guest presenters were Mr. Fred Koning, director of ethics services at Providence Health Care, and Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. They addressed clinical issues around care of the seriously ill, including the question of resuscitation. Notes were distributed, and we looked at the moral and pastoral considerations with insights to papal allocutions on these subjects. Truly relevant and interesting perspectives were presented along with their personal stories and experience. A question-and-answer period followed each session. The hosting pastor introduced the guest speakers, and Bishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, said the opening prayer, while Msgr. Stephen Jensen, PH (vicar for evangelization and education), said the concluding "thank you's" on behalf of the fifty or so clergy who participated.

Fr. Tadeus Goryczka, SDB, who was with our community two years ago--better known as "Fr. Ted"--spent a few weeks with us. His main purpose for traveling all that distance was to preach the Lenten retreat to our Polish Community. We welcomed him with hugs, smiles and laughter. At their confession night six priests administered the sacrament. Beforehand, however, the ladies prepared a tasty Polish supper to the enjoyment of the whole Salesian community.

Youth For Christ Leadership Camp: On March 7-9, an overnight retreat was held at Our Lady of Good Counsel, run by the *Youth for Christ*. Sixty-three participants and thirty team leaders gathered for prayer, teaching, praise and worship, and community building in the Don Bosco Youth Center. Meals were provided by parents of *Youth for Christ*. Fr. Dave Sajdak was the Salesian presence throughout the retreat. The Camp was a Spirit-filled time for all involved. The *Youth for Christ* leaders did an amazing job with their talks, facilitation and music ministry. O.L.G. C. Youth Ministry looks forward to more of these retreat camps in the future.

In preparation for Easter, our priests helped in our neighbouring parishes with the sacrament of Reconciliation in the evenings, as also in the various schools, including Holy Cross H.S., during the day. There was the regular monthly deanery meeting, and our own Monday Salesian study day. Fr. Dave presented his observations in an informative talk on our present youth center and its programs.

The *World Youth Day* group sponsored a pasta fundraiser dinner event at the youth center. Door prizes and raffles were also on hand to enhance the program and excitement. A record hop added to the music delight. Certainly a fun time was had by all for a worthwhile cause.

St. Patrick's Day we treated OLG principal Mr. Gerard Wright out to lunch, and for supper, Bro. Jerry (wearin' his green) treated the community to corned beef and cabbage ... a "Maggie and Jigs" Irish meal.

The 17th was also our Reconciliation night for the entire parish family. About nine neighbouring priests helped us, and once again a spread, fit for a king, was enjoyed afterward.

On Tuesday of Holy Week at Holy Rosary Cathedral the Chrism Mass was celebrated at 5:00 p.m. Before the Eucharist the priests of the archdiocese were invited for a time of recollection beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the cathedral hall, followed by the opportunity for receiving the sacrament of Penance. The sets of holy oils were distributed after Mass, and the priests enjoyed a dinner. Bro. Jerry and Fr. Ted graciously stayed put to open OLGC, and to say the 7 p.m. Lenten Mass for the parishioners.

Palm Sunday had the dramatization of the Passion with a full and sometimes overflowing house at all the Masses. The Knights of Columbus also arranged to have their pancake breakfast after all the three morning Masses. Certainly the Holy Week services were ushered in with a blessing, and Holy Thursday had a representation of all our ethnic communities in the twelve apostles chosen. Our exposition went to midnight in the beautifully decorated arrangement that was held in our Mary Help of Christians facility. Our morning prayers were solemn with singing of the main psalms. Fr. Ted did a mini-reflection with us and those parishioners who joined us for this 7:30 a.m. triduum event. Good Friday held five main services to accommodate our large family of parishioners.

In midmorning there were the Stations of the Cross for children, with a 5 p.m. dramatization presented by our teens and young adults. Holy Saturday held the blessing of food and Easter baskets every hour beginning at 10 a.m. until noon. The East Indian community did the flower decoration arrangements and customary candles with Bro. Jerry overseeing their placement, and rehearsals with the altar servers for all the functions. The church choirs did an outstanding job of the music joining forces for

the Easter Vigil Mass, Baptisms, Confirmations and newly inducted Christians with the conclusion being the “Alleluia Chorus.” The seven readings were dramatized with dialogue and creative, youthful energy as each psalm response was sung in a different language. Our 1st Easter morning Mass was in Polish at 6 a.m., followed by seven more throughout the day, the last one at 7 p.m.

Certainly all these special days held the opportunity for confessions at all times, and our confreres were there for the faithful to help make their Easter *SPECIAL* in every way. Easter also saw Fr. Ted return to Poland. On the 24th Fr. Mario visited his sister and family in Calgary for a few days, as the 7 p.m. Novena Masses to prepare the feast of Divine Mercy were daily underway throughout Easter Week. On the 30th a special 3 p.m. concelebrated Mass underlined that feast; the church was full.

All in all, a tiring, busy month of spiritual joy, reflection and grace for everyone concerned made March just that special in its own right. March 27 and 28 had the weather surprising us with rain, hail and snow. So, I presume this month is ending like a “*lion*” of sorts.

=====

The SN-NS correspondents are:

Surrey: Bro. Jerry H.; **Edmonton:** Ann Harding; **Toronto:** Fr. George H; **Montreal-** Fr. Enzo T.; **Sherbrooke:** Fr. Romeo T. Occasionally I ask others to contribute if they wish (among whom: Fr. Donne, Fr. Lebel, Fr. Pillet, Fr. Richard, Bro. Steven, Bro. Jim, etc.; they are always welcome *even if not asked*, just as others not mentioned here). *R.T.*

Partagez votre joie: envoyez quelques nouvelles.

Share your life: send news.

JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE!

de naissance : Luc Lantagne : 3 mai

d'ordination : Dominique Britschu : 1 mai