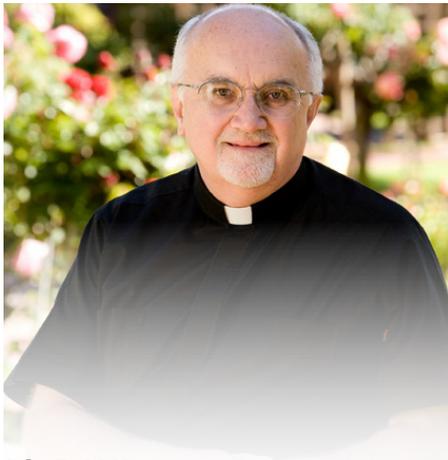




# INTOUCH

July 5  
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



July 5, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Every year by the 4th of July most of our summer camps have begun. Practically every one of our parishes this year has summer day camps, the newest one being St. Luke's in Stockton. The three clubs have growing day camp programs, with some of them also continuing regular club programming in the evening.

And then there's Camp St. Francis, the only overnight Salesian summer camp in the country! They too began this week. The staff is about forty, including SDB, novices, young adults of the Salesian Youth Movement, and former campers returning as assistant counselors or counselors in training. The campers this first week number over 50. Coming weeks will climb to 100!

Why do we do this? Why invest so much, especially personnel, in summer camp? Recently I was reading in the Biographical Memoirs (volume 7, chapter 50) about the summer of 1863 when Don Bosco had kids returning to the Oratory for something like

summer camp, although it was more like summer school. He said to those boys "I have something very important to tell you. I want you to help me in a matter that I have very much at heart—your eternal salvation. This is not only the main reason—it is the only reason why I am here."

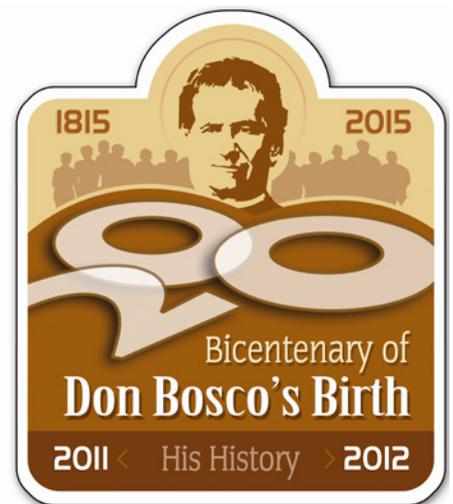
Our summer camps must also bring across the same message to our kids. Our game rooms, gyms, arts and crafts, swimming pools, field trips, talent shows, prayers and Good Mornings, beach, and even the bug juice are all meant to give the kids lots of summer fun in an experience that is, like it was at Don Bosco's Oratory, a home, a school, a church, and a playground. And through that oratory experience, accompanied by caring adults who treat them with loving kindness, as we are urged in the 2013 strena, they will come to know what Don Bosco wanted his boys to know: not only happiness here and now, but everlasting happiness in heaven.

We SDB just finished our first retreat. Fr. Eunan McDonald from Ireland led us into a fascinating exploration of the spirituality of St. Francis DeSales. One of the things that really stuck with me was Francis' saying that God who is good created us good. Can we see that goodness in our campers? Our colleagues? When we find that goodness in them, it will call forth from us that loving kindness that is at the root of Salesian spirituality, heart speaking to heart. This is the way we Salesians accompany the young, and one another, even in summer camp.

A Blessed and Happy Camp Season to all!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB  
Provincial



## PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

### JULY 2012

- 5 Members Meeting, St. Francis CCC High School
- 6-8 Office Days
- 9-11 Provincial Council Meeting, Salesian High School, Richmond
- 12 Board Meeting, Los Angeles Salesian Boys & Girls Club
- 13-17 Office Days
- 18 Members Meeting, Salesian High School, Richmond Board Meeting, West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club
- 19 Office Day

# Annual Retreat



Last week 36 Salesians made their retreat at Three Rivers. While up in the Giant Forest the stately Sequoias were reaching up to the heavens, down below we probing the depths of the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the heart of Jesus.

Fr. Eunan McDonnell, of the Irish Province, gently guided us through the humanism and theology of Francis. The first night he challenged us with the question: WHO HAS YOUR HEART.

From the bold statement of Genesis (We were created in the image and likeness of God) on to the incredible reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God, through which in God's mysterious plan we become the dwelling place of the Beloved, the paradise of paradises we looked at the heart of Jesus and the call of our heart. We are constantly exposed to the enticements of love. God is restless for us. Ours are wounded hearts, but when through prayer (not a tech-

nique but a relationship) and bringing our affections and passions into the service of divine love, then our hearts will breathe in rhythm with God's heart. The Son of God became man so that He could return our hearts to God, the vine to which we the branches must ever be joined. God shows us his love because He is of a gentle spirit. At the Incarnation God weds Himself to humanity for He wishes our heart to be intimately bound to his (Let Him kiss me with the kiss of his mouth: Song of Songs).

God constantly breathes upon us and inspires in us the desires and intentions of his heart... because He wants us to fly, He is restless for us.

So our prayer must not be self-centered rather be centered on the beloved, allowing ourselves to be drawn by Him.

Our prayer is a response to his pre-existing love, friend with friend, heart speaking to heart. Because of the 'nuptial kiss' God has invited us to receive presentments of heaven in this life, He has invited us to participate in his divine

friendship. The proof that we have kissed the Lord lies in whether or not we have a heart full of kind and charitable affections toward our neighbor. LIVE JESUS.

The destiny of all humanity is to be in Christ as was supremely realized in

Mary, the first to participate in her Son's heart. Through her obedience she lived in union with her Son. She being the image of the Church, the first disciple, Mary is our model. LIVE JESUS.

A poor resume of an inspiring and profound retreat. Thank you, Eunan. ♥

*God constantly breathes upon us and inspires in us the desires and intentions of his heart... because He wants us to fly, He is restless for us.*

# Salesian Educators Seminar in Review

By Marie Marheineke

I had an amazing Salesian experience at the Salesian Educators Seminar during the week of June 18-22 in Berkeley. I attended SES with three of my co-workers, Denise Colosi (Math Department Chair), Carolyn Cmaylo (English Department Chair), and Steph- any Marks (Spanish Teacher).

During our time at SES we quickly realized how Salesian St. Francis is, and also how we can grow in our Salesian identity and spirituality. The message delivered by Fr. Nick Reina and Sr. Mary Greenan really hit home for me and I felt that was common among all of us who attended SES. While we had amazing conferences on such topics as Images of God, Punishment in the Salesian Preventive System, and an incredible opportunity to sit with Fr. Arthur Lenti in an “armchair discussion,” the work wasn’t confined to the conference room atop the Le Conte Street house. The discussions carried over to our walks around the picturesque Berkeley neighborhoods and Cal campus, our dinner at Caesar’s in San Francisco, and even in line for our meals in the dining room.

We also had a chance to see Salesian- ity in action with our visits to Salesian works in the area. We were hosted for a historic tour of Sts. Peter and Paul, by Fr. John Itzaina, complete with a visit to the roof, overlooking the San Francisco Marina and North Beach neighborhoods! We were then treated to dinner at nearby Caesar’s, a legendary North Beach fixture. We also traveled to Salesian High School in Richmond, getting

a peak at Don Bosco’s vision in action. It was powerful to see the students on campus for summer activities, including work at the Salesian Boys and Girls club, right there on campus. Bro. Ricky and Judy Reed gave us a tour of the facility, and seeing the boys and girls bouncing joyfully around would have surely made Don Bosco smile.

There was a great mix of people who attended SES – teachers, CYMs, office staff personnel, presidents and principals. The various attendees gave us a wide scope of how Don Bosco’s Preventive System works not only school wide, but province wide, and involves the participation of everyone involved – we are all Salesian!

We walked away from SES realizing that at each of our schools throughout the province we are indeed Salesian and the Preventive System vital and active. Fr. Nick and Sr. Mary sent us back to our campuses with sharpened

tools to continue to build on what we have in place.

Overall, SES was a fabulous experience. Fr. Nick and Sr. Mary were incredibly dynamic, striking a balance between comedic performances, informative presentations and meaningful reflections as only true Salesians could. The group who attended SES has found new friends and colleagues

S E S



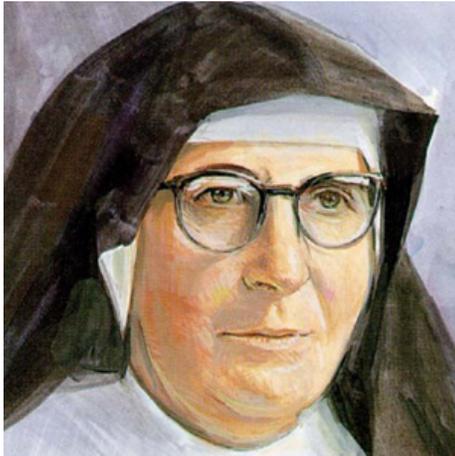
Denise Colosi, Stephany Marks, Marie Marheineke and Carolyn Cmaylo.

throughout the province. The 4 of us from St. Francis agreed that everyone should take the opportunity to attend SES. We plan to share our experience with our faculty and staff and have already been discussing newly inspired ideas. ♥

*Marie Marheineke is beginning her fourth year as the Assistant to the President for Admissions at St. Francis Central Coast Catholic High School in Watsonville, CA.*

# Sister Maria Troncatti: the grace of a total yes

June 27, 2012 - Italy



**A**NS – Rome – On May 10, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI signed the decree on the miraculous cure attributed to the intercession of Venerable Sr. Maria Troncatti. On June 24, feast of Don Bosco's successor, Mother Yvonne Reungoat, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, gave the Rector Major the latest book published on Venerable Maria, entitled *La grazia di un sì tutto donato*.

It is precisely on the life and work of Sr. Maria Troncatti that "The Grace of a Total Yes, Maria Troncatti Missionary in the Amazon Forest," Sr. Maria Collino's recent book is focused. This volume was recently released by the publisher, Elledici (LDC)

of Turin. It is the second biography of the heroic missionary sister, after *The Jungle, Country of the Heart*. Translations into other languages should appear soon.

The book contains 17 chapters that follow the entire life of Sr. Maria beginning with her encounter with the Salesians when she was ten years old and received the *Salesian Bulletin*, given to her by her elementary school teacher. There she read of the missions and discovered new horizons. It ends with her death on August 25, 1969, when the plane she was in crashed en route to Quito.

Sr. Maria's life is filled with rich experiences, a truly adventurous life. She was

born on February 16, 1883, the third of four children, at Corteno Golgi in the Lombard Alps of northern Italy. She left her family and birthplace to enter the postulancy on October 15, 1905. She never returned home. Her suffering in leaving her dear ones and her homeland was so great that she could not go back to the place that gave her birth.

In fact many years later, on the eve of her 85th birthday, she wrote a letter to her nieces and nephews. In it she spoke of her old and ever present suffering. "You tell me that you are always hoping to see me return to Italy. At my age it's impossible and isn't my superiors' fault. They have told me many times that they would let me go see my family if I wanted to. I never accepted, first because my place is here, but also because, when the day to leave arrived [in 1905], the detachment from my parents, superiors, country, language, from everything, cost me dearly. When I boarded the ship, I said good-bye forever. We will see each other once again in Heaven."

Suffering and hope are constants in the life of Sr. Maria. Before leaving for Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1922, typhoid and the First World War (1915-1918) deeply affected the soul and spirit of the Blessed. Even after her arrival in the Amazon forest, there were many hard moments to face, but Sr. Maria was "the woman of 'yes.'" She never turned back despite the many difficulties. All this and more is in the book. Sr. Maria Collino succeeds in making the story of this extraordinary Salesian sister relevant and involving, thanks to her refreshing and flowing style. ♥

## May They Rest In The Peace of Christ

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**VIRGIL JOHN GERGEN**

June 22, 2012

aged 91

father of Fr. Mike Gergen, SDB



**EVELYN FREITAS**

June 29, 2012

Sister-in-law of Bro. Anthony Freitas, SDB



**MARIANA MASS**

July 2, 2012

aunt of Bro. Tom Mass, SDB



*“Lord, you know everything;  
You know that I love you.”*

*(John 21:17)*



With gratitude to God

## **The Salesians of Don Bosco**

Of the Province of Saint Andrew the Apostle  
Joyfully Announce the First Profession of

**PETER DUOC LE**

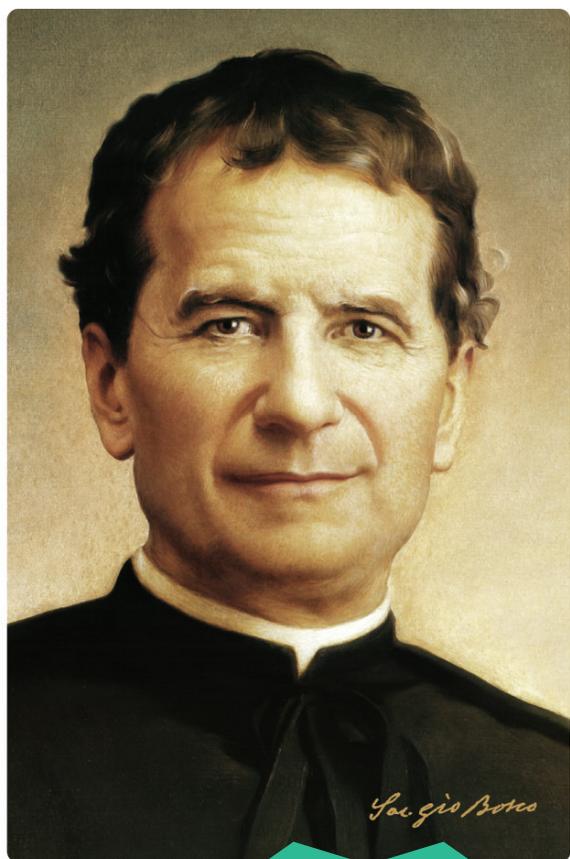
### **The Rite of Religious Profession**

Will be celebrated during Mass  
On Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 6:00pm

At St. Dominic Savio Church  
13400 Bellflower Boulevard,  
Bellflower, CA 90706.

*We would be honored by your presence,  
if not personally, then in spirit and prayer.  
(Reception to follow in the Parish Hall)*

[www.salesianfamily.org/profession2012](http://www.salesianfamily.org/profession2012)  
510.621.3862



## **SDB BIRTHDAYS**

**JULY** 🌿 24 Chinh Nguyen 🌿 26  
Chuyen Nguyen 🌿 29 Austin Con-  
terno 🌿 31 Joseph Paradayil

## **INTOUCH PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER**



Salesians of St. John Bosco  
1100 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (626) 280-8622 #35  
E-mail: [intouch@salesiansc.org](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org)  
Weekly publications will be  
distributed on Thursdays. Please  
submit news for publication by  
Friday of each week.  
Send contributions to:  
[intouch@salesiansc.org](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org).



## **Provincial Announcement**

After prayerful discernment  
**Novice Sean Bryan**  
has withdrawn from the novitiate.  
God bless you, Sean!  
May Mary continue to be your help and guide in all  
the stages of your coming journey.

# CAMP SAVIO is ready...

This year Camp Savio has been blessed with 175 counselors and 294 campers. On Sunday Fr. Ted Montemayor blessed all the counselors who are willingly giving up their summers to make the difference in the life of our young children. This year we have also been able to sponsor over 40 families. Thank you so much for all your prayers!





DE SALES HALL

*1/4 inch fire-shield sheathing screwed to the 3/4 inch plywood*

**W**hile we (the Salesians) were listening to talks about the connection between God's heart and that of St. Francis de Sales in connection with the "Salesian heart", the construction at De Sales Hall continued in our absence.

Mr. Alfredo Urbirs (Job Supervisor, from Vincor) reported that the insulation on all the floors has been completed. The old R-13 insulation was replaced with R-19 insulation according to Title 24 (Energy Compliance).

All of the electrical conduits are installed (except for the main conduit to the electrical panel). The contractor ran into a concrete footing (16 feet square by 5 feet deep) for the steel column that holds up one of the major structural I-beam running from one end of the building to the other. The men are chipping off parts the footing to make room for the 4 inch electrical conduit pipes.

Most of the tile work has been completed in the handicapped showers. It looks very good!

Before the retreat began, the 3/4 inch shear plywood wall was completed on the elevator tower. The shear plywood walls have to be rated as 4 hours fire walls. The contractor screwed a

# The construction continued in our absence

**Bro. Joe Lockwood, SDB**

1/4 inch fire-shield sheathing to give it the necessary rating. The stucco contractor will begin to screw the stucco lathe over the fire-shield sheathing and then apply the first scratch coat of cement mortar.

But everything isn't as rosy as it might be . . . If you remembered, we hired Karcher Interior System to handle the firestoppings for entire building. Now there is a discussion between Karcher and the Building and Safety Department of Bellflower about the compliance of the firestopping with the UBC. According to Karcher, the entire firestopping job has been completed while according to the Building and Safety Department the firestopping does not meet the 2012 UBC. On July 3, 2012, there is a meeting with all the concerned parties. This little dispute has put a hold on the contractor's hanging of the 3/8 inch dry wall.

If this was not enough . . . Another setback is the final plans from the electrical engineers for the first floor. The first floor is where the electrical service enters the building. There are a few more details that are required by the Building and Safety Department. You might ask, why is this being held up? The answer is that the person responsible to prepare the plans was on vacation for the last few weeks. There is some hope that by Monday, July 2, 2012 there will be movement. Wait and see!!!

And yet another pain in the . . . . is the sub-contractor for the ansul fire extinguishing system for the kitchen's stove hood. He does not like the existing sheet metal stove hood and wants us to install a new stainless steel hood

instead. We said no to a new hood. The contractor has been in contact with the Health Department who said that the kitchen area is original and the owner is not remodeling it. So just install the system! And the discussion goes on. ♡



*Pile of sand: NB: the bottom of the electrical conduit trenches, there must be 6 inches of sand mixed with pee grave as a base for the conduit pipes another 6 inches on top of the pipes before the back fill takes place*



*Carpenters chipping concrete from the 16 inches square footing*



*The R-19 ceiling insulation in the third floor community room*

## Salesian Family Days An Opportunity for Formation and Fellowship

This October the Salesian Family will gather in three regions of our province: Northern California, Southern, California and Texas, for a Salesian day of formation. These reflections are offered here to the members of our Province who belong to the Salesian Family and those who would like to belong. To prepare for Salesian Family Day we offer a series of reflection on the nature and origin of the Salesian Family.



### The Salesian Family the Genius of Don Bosco

By: Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB

#### Don Bosco Listens to his Heart and a Friend

Don Bosco, an eager young newly ordained priest, was anxious to begin his ministry. He assumed that he would be a parish priest and began to entertain thoughts of finding a parish, perhaps one near his home near Castel Nuovo di Asti.<sup>8</sup> He had enjoyed his time with Fr. Peter Cinzano parish church in Castelnuovo. Describing those five months of service at the parish, Don Bosco enumerates the many tasks for which he was responsible including preaching, teaching catechism, celebrating the Sacraments and office duties. He concludes:

My delight was to make contact with the children and teach them catechism. They used to come from Murialdo to see me, and on my visits home they crowded round me. Whenever I left the presbytery there was a group of boys, and everywhere I went my little friends gave me a warm welcome.<sup>9</sup>

This, *my delight was to make contact with the children*, is the dominate theme that has run through his life as a child, student, seminarian and now as a young priest. Now he must find a position. Following the custom of the time he must find his own livelihood. The young priest sees three options before him:

At the end of the holidays, I had three situations to choose from. I could have taken a post as tutor in the house of a Genoese gentleman with a salary of a thousand francs a year. The good people of Murialdo were so anxious to have me as their chaplain that they were prepared to double the salary paid to chaplains up to then. Last, I could have become a curate in my native parish.<sup>10</sup>

Don Bosco, before making any choice, seeks the advice of his spiritual advisor, Fr. Joseph Cafasso. Don Cafasso advises the young priest to hold off making a decision as to ministry. Cafasso sees in Don Bosco something unique which would be stifled in a parish. Don Bosco is destined for a larger enterprise. He invites Don Bosco to take the course in pastoral theology at the *Convitto Ecclesiastico* where he himself taught. This was a two year course in what today we would call pastoral theology. The time was spent in preparing young priests for the ministry.

Don Bosco entered the *Convitto*, which was located in Turin, on November 3, 1841. A month later he met a 16 year old, Bartholomew Garelli, in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Don Bosco tells the story in his *Memoirs*<sup>11</sup>. This first young person returned with friends to seek out Don Bosco who happily gathered them in the Church and later at the *Convitto*. In the meantime he was preaching and visiting the prisons with Fr. Cafasso and attending classes. He referred to these gatherings as the *Oratory*. Soon the boys numbered about 30. Don Cafasso a teacher and Don Guala, a founder of the *Convitto* enjoyed the young people and often helped Don Bosco with them.

Don Bosco's genius was forming. He clearly had an affinity for the young. His generosity attracted others to help him in this ministry. This will become an essential quality of his future Salesians: listen to your heart, be generous and others will come to help with the young.

<sup>8</sup> The area has been renamed *Castel Nuovo di Don Bosco*.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid: *Memoirs* pg. 97

<sup>10</sup> Ibid: *Memoirs* pg. 99

<sup>11</sup> Ibid: *Memoirs* pg. 102-107





Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

## The "Missionary Group" makes a great difference



**D**ear Salesians and friends of the Salesian mission,

I wish to share with you once again a dream which I've carried in my heart these past 4 years. There is

nothing new. Already 90 years ago Blessed Philip Rinaldi wrote that there is a need of a Salesian missionary group in every house! But what difference does the presence or absence of a missionary group in a Salesian work or in a Salesian formation community? The presence of the missionary group is a guarantee that the missionary flame is kept alive! In the same way that the absence of medical schools and hospitals would make health care impossible, so too without missionaries *ad gentes - ad vitam* and without missionary groups in schools, parishes, youth centres it would be very difficult to expect that the missionary spirit be kept alive!

Usually missionary groups pray and invite others to pray for missionary activities and missionary vocation, they make the educative-pastoral community sensitive to the needs of the universal mission and they could also contribute directly in missionary

activities either in their own place, or through missionary volunteer service abroad.

Now I want to present a very special group. During the recent extraordinary visitation in the Province of Krakow (Poland) I met several missionary groups in schools, oratories and parishes. Worth noting among them is group "Art 43", founded just five years ago by some postnovices, who took seriously the Article 43 of the Salesian Constitutions regarding Social Communications. These young Salesians have understood immediately that the most attractive picture of the Congregation is that of its missionary activity. In the space of a few years they have produced more than 260 videos on Youtube (<http://vimeo.com/art43>). Besides a small studio in Krakow - thanks to some volunteer missionaries - Art. 43 was started (in 2011) an audiovisual studio in the Provincial house in Ashaiman - Ghana (AFW Province). At present Art 43 is very much alive in postnovitiate in Łąd (Poland) and in the theologate in Krakow (Poland). In my wallet I carry with me one of the first products of Art 43: a prayer for missionaries on an ID card format and at the back each day the names of 3 - 4 countries where we work are remembered.

I hope that we are able to foster in all our works similar groups!

*Václav Klement*  
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB  
Councillor for the Missions

### Upcoming Events

July 30 - August 4: **Study Days on Salesian Presence among Muslims**, Salesianum (Rome)

August 6 - 27: **1<sup>st</sup> On Going Formation Course for Missionaries in America**, Quito (Ecuador)

September 4 - 30: **Formation Course for New Missionaries** (Rome-Turin)

September 17 - December 6, 2012: **XV On Going Formation Course for Missionaries**, UPS (Rome)

November 5 - 9 : **Study Days on the Salesian Mission and the Initial Proclamation of Christ in Africa & Madagascar**, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

November 9 - 11 : **Meeting of Province Delegates for Missionary Animation of Africa & Madagascar**, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)