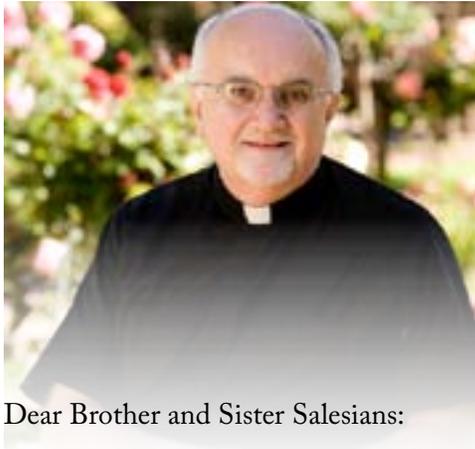




INTOUCH

July 26
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Three weeks from today, August 16, all of us in the Salesian world will launch the second year of our preparation for Don Bosco's 200th birthday. After this first year in which we have concentrated on coming to know Don Bosco better in order to imitate him and make his life's mission to the young our own, now we want to get closer to Don Bosco the educator. And so the strenna that Don Bosco's successor Pascual Chavez gives us for this year is Like Don Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness.

In effect this is a call to rediscovering the preventive system, both our method and our spirituality as Salesian educators. And of course this applies to us all, not just to those in school settings. In his brief presentation of the strenna, the Rector Major suggests that rediscovering the preventive system will have us facing three critical questions if we really want to recapture that pedagogy of kindness, the preventive system: What does "the upright citizen and good Christian" look like in the 21st century? Who exactly are those young people to whom we offer the Gospel of joy? And what can "education is a matter of the heart" mean for us today? I'd like to reflect on each of those three in coming letters. Today, the first one.

Upright Citizen. If Don Bosco did everything to keep his boys out of the political tangles of his day, would he do that now? He would not encourage them to sign up as republicans or democrats, no. But he would, and certainly we must, form them to invest their lives for the good of the social body. Human rights, faithful citizenship in the vote, right to life, immigration reform, the new economy that Benedict teaches, and much more. Our Priority #5 as a province commits us to do just this in each local presence, with a special outreach to the undocumented. Will we become more like Don Bosco the educator if we don't make it a real priority? The way the Rector Major phrases the question is "Let's ask ourselves: in the Congregation, the Salesian Family, are our provinces, groups and houses doing everything possible in this direction? Is their solidarity with the young . . . an adequate and pertinent response to the needs of the young and weakest social classes?" Yes, let's ask ourselves, and then act!

Good Christian. Not just a pay, pray, and obey Christian, but a follower of Jesus fiercely loyal to him and to his Church, but also capable of free and mature decisions for the transformation of society. Today's good Christian, product of a Salesian education, has to be like Don Bosco himself: united with God and yet deeply human. Running out of space here. Please read the Rector Major's presentation of Strenna 2013 and let's make Don Bosco the educator our model.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

July 2012

- 24-28 Visit Los Angeles Communities
- 29-8/3 Confreres' Retreat, San Juan Bautista

August 2012

- 4 Travel to Laredo, TX
- 5 Perpetual Profession, Sr. Cynthia Salas, FMA
- 6 Travel to San Francisco
- 7-8 Office Days
- 9-10 New Director's Workshop, Fr. Chinh Nguyen, SDB

May They Rest in Peace

JOYCE NEIL

board member

Salesian West Contra Costa

Boys & Girls Club

Provincial Announcement

We welcome

Fr. Fabio Attard, SDB

General Councilor for Youth Ministry to our province this week. Fr. Fabio will be preaching the confreres' retreat at San Juan Bautista. Welcome Fabio!

ST. AMBROSE SUMMER CAMP: ANE-MAIL

By Fr. Jesse Montes, SDB

Once in a while a program gets kudos from unexpected places. We have been running the summer camp for two years now. A week ago we received this e-mail:

I am a Spanish professor of Theology, the Director of the Chair of Ethics and Christian Thought at IQS, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain.

Next year, I will spend four months, ... at Berkeley, in a research stay. I will work on a book about Social Ethics. That will be between June 1st and September 30th 2013. My wife and my 10-year-old daughter will come with me.

Somebody spoke to me very well about your parish day summer camp, and I think it would be very interesting for my daughter. I called to the parish and a very nice woman explained to me that this year the camp is between July 9th and August 3rd, from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, 60 \$ a week.

When I was a child and a teenager I went every Sunday to María Auxiliadora in Sarrià, Barcelona, and at present we live closed to Salesianos de Rocafort, Barcelona.

Good Salesian work always attracts admiration. Our work, generously supported by Fr. Jack Gibson, pastor, is but a drop in the ocean of what is going on in our province during the summer of 2012, and the influence we have worldwide.



Please Pray for our Sick

Mrs. Thresiamma Paradayil

mother of Fr. Joseph Matthew

aged 82

intensive care after three heart attacks

Mrs. Ellen Pepi

sister of Fr. Richard Presenti

Val Colussi

hospitalized, stitches after a fall

Archbishop Louis

Kebreau, SDB

Archbishop of Cape-Haiten,

Haiti

advanced cancer

Cathy Baccari

wife of Al Baccari of

Sts. Peter and Paul

Mrs. Maria Bui Thi Mai

Mother of Bro. Khoa Luong

aged 80

will have the surgery after a fall

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

Salesians of St. John Bosco

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Weekly publications will be distributed on Thursdays. Please submit news for publication by

Friday of each week.

Send contributions to:
intouch@salesiansc.org.



A MODERN ORATORY

By Noah Moore & Will Schneider
(CSF 2012 Assistant Counselors)



Every day is Beach Day!



It's Crazy **WEDNESDAY!**

All-things water & flour!



>> Summer 2012



The Word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

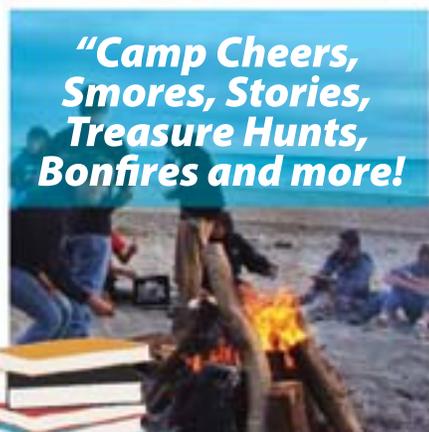


Daily Mass and Prayers

Camp St. Francis is located in Aptos, California. While here, you can smell and taste the ocean air, hear the waves crashing on the beach, and if you're lucky, you may even see our dolphin friends. Camp St. Francis is open throughout the month of July to campers of ages six through fourteen.

Here, the campers are treated to entire days of fun and creative experiences. Unique camp activities include archery, daily visits to the beach, and of course daily mass. On Wednesday mornings, the campers are treated to "Crazy Wednesday" (which includes all-things water and flour activities). In the evenings the entire camp gathers on the beach to enjoy a campfire, sing, do cheers, make "s'mores" and cook hot dogs. On Thursday nights, the campers from each cabin participate in the talent show, and a panel of judges scores them. The cabins compete to be the "Honor Cabin" of the week. Continuing our rich tradition, our all-star staff members are as diverse as the campers. They come from different parts of the United States, Mexico, Spain, England, and the Dominican Republic.

Camp St. Francis campers, take with them unforgettable memories and many new friendships. While here, campers grow in their faith and learn how to be responsible, respectful, and honest. We hope that more young kids will want to come to Camp St. Francis to have fun, while learning more about their faith and hopefully one day become counselors and Salesians to continue this wonderful Salesian tradition.



"Camp Cheers, S'mores, Stories, Treasure Hunts, Bonfires and more!"



Learning Teamwork



Living Together



Reading Rewards



All-Star Camp Staff



Meeting New Friends!

BOSCO TECH ALUMNUS IS FIRST UNDERGRADUATE TO WIN YOUNG PERSONS' WORLD LECTURE COMPETITION

ROSEMEAD, CA—July 20, 2012 – Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) alumnus Brian Weden (class of 2008) earned first place in the Young Persons' World Lecture Competition in London, England, on July 5, 2012. He is the first undergraduate to win the award.

Competing against nine finalists from around the world, Weden earned top honors from the competition sponsor, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, for his talk, "High Performance Impact-Tolerant and Abrasion-Resistant Materials: Lessons from Nature." In it, he discussed his research on a damage-tolerant composite that is one of the hardest biominerals in nature, found in the tiny teeth of marine mollusks called chitons.

After graduating from Bosco Tech, Weden went on to the University of California at Riverside where he is completing his bachelor's degree in Materials Science; he plans to pursue a doctorate in the field. He

currently is an undergraduate researcher in the university's Biomimetics and Nanomaterials Fabrication lab, run by the esteemed Dr. David Kisailus. Weden recently co-authored a paper on biomineralization that will be published later this year. "Brian exemplifies our dedicated Materials Science graduates," said Jim Curiel, chairman of Bosco Tech's Materials Science, Engineering and Technology program. "He attributes his interest and early success to the education he received during his time at Bosco Tech. We are proud that he was able to share his knowledge on an international level."

The annual lecture competition invites students and professionals up to the age of 28 to deliver a short lecture on a materials, minerals, mining, packaging, clay technology and wood science related subject. Bosco Tech is the only all-male Catholic high school in the state that uniquely integrates college-preparatory and tech-

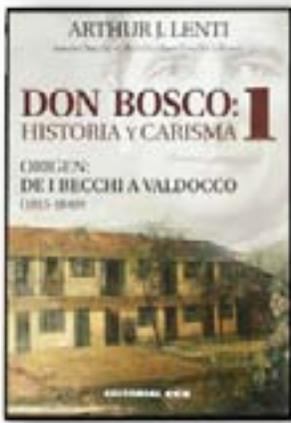


Brian Weden

nology education. The academic curriculum allows students to exceed university admission requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of five technology and engineering-related fields: Architecture and Construction Engineering; Computer Science and Electrical Engineering; Integrated Design, Engineering and Art; Materials Science, Engineering and Technology; and Media Arts and Technology.

For further information about Bosco Tech, please call (626) 940-2000 or visit www.boscotech.edu.

“Miscelánea Comillas” praises the work of Fr Arthur Lenti



(ANS – Madrid) – The Jesuit Comillas Pontifical University, in its review “Miscelánea Comillas” – its main publication for academic material from the Faculty of the Humanities and Social Sciences – in a recent very positive book review spoke highly of the first volume of the Spanish edition of “Don Bosco, History and Charism” by Fr Arthur Lenti SDB.

The Spanish language version was edited by Fr Juan José Bartolomé and Fr Jesús Graciliano González and published by the “Central Catequística Salesiana” (CCS) in Madrid. In agreement with the author the two editors have brought together Fr Lenti’s monumental work in seven volumes – in 3 volumes while updating the notes and quotations and adding a Spanish bibliography. William Rodríguez Campos, the author of the review of the first volume, recommends the work of Fr Lenti, a historian who is able to identify the main thread uniting human events, and record them objectively. Fr Lenti does this in masterly fashion presenting the life and work of Saint John Bosco (1815-1888).

“The first two chapters dedicated to a study of the sources and the

biographical tradition concerning Don Bosco are jewels of inestimable value for historians, social scientists and researchers” Rodríguez Campos declares.

Using a hermeneutic approach Fr Lenti identifies, evaluates, compares and often corrects documents and interpretation regarding Don Bosco formerly considered indisputable. He forcefully and in a definitive manner combats myths and superficial views. In this regard he emphasises the work done on the text of the “Memoirs of the Oratory”, because it subjects to a critical examination anecdotes from the life of Don Bosco which had been transformed into “categories”: Don Bosco in opposition to the parish priests, a revolutionary persecuted by the civil authorities, abandoned and alone, not involved in politics. Fr Lenti shows that all these anecdotes are false.

In locating the saint in his religious context, Fr Lenti illustrates a fundamental aspect: the direct, conscious, desired influence of the Jesuits, Barnabites, Franciscans, Oblates, Oratorians... In studying the social activity of Don Bosco, his spirituality and Pastoral work, the fact cannot be ignored that Don Bosco synthesises these influences in a vital, spiritual and pedagogical way. The atmosphere of the Convitto Ecclesiastico as experienced by Don Bosco was an experience of formative and theological equilibrium. It was an atmosphere contrary to Jansenism, Liberalism and Gallicanism. There was a strong Jesuit influence, among other things, through the

“friends’ association.” The models of moral and pastoral theology proposed were, in addition very different from one another: Saint Charles Borromeo, Saint Philip Neri and Saint Francis of Sales. And helping Don Bosco to move towards a spirituality founded on love and on pastoral charity there was Fr Joseph Cafasso. “In fact,” – Rodríguez Campos declares, “Fr Luigi Guala and Fr Cafasso were the founders and the soul of the Convitto”.

The author of the review goes on to note that Chapter XIV makes the most impact and containing the most extensive documentation; demonstrates the “explosive discovery by Don Bosco of the poor and abandoned boys of Turin.” In a most disillusioned manner he describes the social, moral and religious situation of youth. The increase in the population and the urban expansion contributing to making worse the living conditions of the rural population with hunger, exploitation of the work force and unemployment, poverty illiteracy, and beggary. Whereas at the Oratory the boys found a house, a school, a playground. The novelty of Don Bosco’s Oratory: its fundamentally religious purpose. Rodríguez Campos also points out that through the Regulations for the Oratory one can recognise another of Don Bosco’s gifts, that of the writer. And he concludes: “An extraordinary work. Full of topics and themes. An excellent and successful effort uniting harmoniously a realistic view of the life and work of Don Bosco and his genuine religious motivation.”



YM Newsletter: making known the work of the Department for Youth Ministry

(ANS – Rome) – “The Salesians are evangelisers, educators and communicators of the love of God” is the opening of an interview given by Fr Filiberto Gonzalez, Councillor for Social Communication, to Zenit, the international Catholic news agency.



[Full ANS article](#)

Bicentenary: logo and poster for the second year

(ANS – Rome) – The poster for the second year of preparation for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco is ready and available. The Rector Major has also made his contribution to its composition, following up the graphic design drawn up by the “Don Bosco Institute of Communication Arts” (DBICA) in Chennai. With the colour green predominant indicating the year dedicated to Don Bosco’s pedagogy, the poster has three elements:

- the face of Don Bosco reproduced from the death mask made by Cellini after his death and from which a wax mask was made which today can be seen in the casket kept in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians as well as in that travelling round the world;
- a detail from the work of Mario Bogani “Don Bosco with the boys” which is in the Basilica at Colle Don Bosco. In the foreground are the young people to whom the work of Don Bosco is addressed (boys and girls) and behind them those who are continuing the work: religious and lay people. In the background the fruits of holiness that flourished around Don Bosco: Dominic Savio, Francis Besucco and Michael Magone.
- the three pillars on which the Preventive System rests: reason, religion and loving kindness.



<http://www.infoans.org/1.asp?sez=1&doc=8098&Lingua=2>

Bumps on the way

By Brother Joseph Lockwood, SDB

Does it seem that when a project is moving smoothly and you see light at the end of the tunnel, all of sudden there is an obstacle? Well that is what happened this last week on the DeSales project. SCE (Southern California Edison) was out to inspect the area where the new electrical panel will be located. Of course SCE was out before the project even began to indicate where the new transformer will be located and approved the size of the room for the electrical panel and meter. When they came out last week, they told the Vincor people (our contractors) that the opening for the electrical room was not high enough and they would not be able to install the new electrical panel. What does that mean? The entrance to the electrical room will be enlarged to accommodate the height of the new electrical panel.

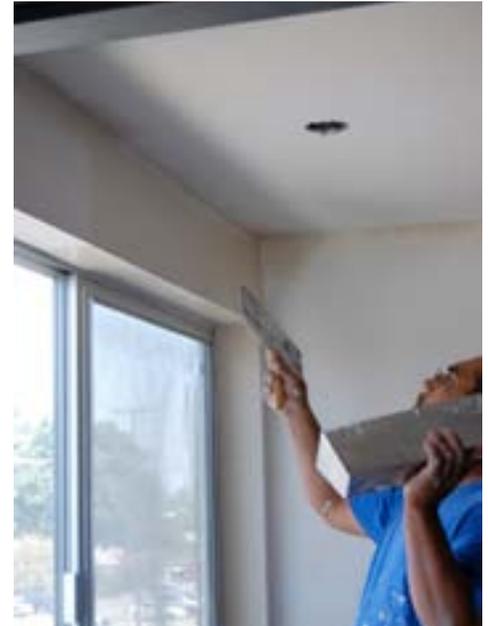
Besides the above drawback, a new problem sprung up. During the architectural planning, the ceilings of the first floor, namely the ceilings in the dining room, lobby and hallways were intact. The Building and Safety Department could not see the structural members, steel beam, 2 x 4 framing, and 2 x 6 joists. Since the ceiling had to be removed for the ventilation ducts, electrical conduits, repair of leaking sewer pipes and the inspection of the fire proofing, the ceiling was removed. Last Friday, there was a meeting to discuss the structural members of the first floor.

The Building and Safety Department director was present at the meeting along with the architect and the contractor and it was decided that the structural engineer must determine if the structural members will be able carry both the live (the presence of people) and dead loads (furniture, walls, etc.) of the above floors. (When the building was first constructed in 1968, the rooms on the second and third floor were large rooms designed to accommodate four high school aspirants. By dividing the large rooms in 1986 into individual bedrooms, the dead load of both floors was increased.)

However, there is still some good news. The third floor is all taped and sanded and ready for painting. The second floor dry wall has been completed and the taping is in process. Mitsubishi, the elevator company, has been contacted to inform them that the interior of the elevator shaft is ready for the elevator car. (please see last week's article)

The exterior of the elevator tower received it's primer coat of paint and is ready for the final coat of paint. All of the 38 recessed lighting boxes (for one hour fire protection) were installed, completed and approved.

Sadly, the light in the tunnel has dimmed due to the above problems, and occupancy has been further delayed until October.



The tapper, Freddie with his mud pan and trowel



Condensation drain pipes for the air conditioners



One of the 38 recessed lighting boxes



The electrician, Myung standing in front of the SCE's electrical panel room

Salesian Family Days An Opportunity for Formation and Fellowship

This October the Salesian Family will gather for a Salesian day of formation. Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB, STD, will on Don Bosco the Educator.

- on October 13 at St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower, CA, and Salesian High School, Richmond, CA.
- on October 27 at St. John Bosco School, San Antonio, Texas

Fr. Joe will be live from St. John Bosco High School and at the other sites via internet broadcast. To prepare for Salesian Family Day we offer a series of reflections on the nature and origin of the Salesian Family.



The Salesian Family the Genius of Don Bosco

By: Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB

A Seed is Planted

When we speak of family origins and history we refer to a *family tree*. The analogy is appropriate when referring to the Salesian worldwide movement. The Salesian Family Tree began with a seed. This seed, as all seeds, contained in it everything needed for development. While we must understand that John Bosco had been gathering youngsters from the time he himself was a child, we look to December 8, 1841 as the foundation date of the *Salesians*. We can say that with the meeting of Bartholomew Garelli the seed was planted.

The seed sprouted and became a tender sapling. The “tree” was Don Bosco alone with a few youngsters in the sacristy of the Church of Francis of Assisi near the Convitto where Don Bosco was a post-ordination student. The sapling had to be transplanted often before it would find a permanent field in which to grow. Don Bosco’s tree underwent several transplants all of which strengthened the tree.

We set aside the analogy of the tree for a moment for another analogy which describes the permanent establishment of the *Oratory of St. Francis de Sales* (1841-1846), *The Wondering Oratory* .

In succession the Wondering Oratory moved from the Convitto to

- Marchionesses Borolo’s Refugio, October 20, 1844
- Marchionesses Borolo’s Hospital of St. Philomena, December 8, 1844
- Holy Cross Cemetery with its chapel , St. Peter in Chains, May 25 1845
- The Oratory has no place to meet and goes wherever Don Bosco can find space, June 6, 1845
- St. Martin’s chapel at the Dora Mills, July 13, 1845
- Fr. John Baptist Moretta’s House, January 4, 1846
- Filippi Field, early March 1846
- Francis Pinardi House April 1, 1846 (where the Oratory is today)¹³

The period of the Wondering Oratory was filled with difficulty, controversy and illness. Don Bosco’s *Oratory* was not understood even by some of his friends and benefactors, but there were always those ready to help. From the very beginning at the Convitto two of Don Bosco’s teachers, mentors and friends, Don Cafasso and Don Borel along with other priests such as Don Guala helped Don Bosco. His work load was enormous: finding places for the Oratory to meet, providing recreation, classes, counseling, while at the same time covering his duties at the Refugio, writing and publishing, numerous invitations to preach and hear confessions. It all proved more than he could bear. He collapsed from exhaustion. In desperation Fr. Borel sent him home to the Becchi and his mother’s care. He returned to the Oratory with his mother, Margaret Bosco, on November 3, 1846. The Oratory gains a mother and the Salesian Family is a reality.¹⁴

¹³ Ibid: *Don Bosco History and Spirit*, pg. 66-73

¹⁴ Ibid: *Don Bosco History and Spirit*, pg. 107-115

