



INTOUCH

April 26
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



April 26, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

This weekend's Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in each cycle the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd is proclaimed in the Gospel. **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** coincides then with Good Shepherd Sunday.

The purpose of a World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to give public witness of the community at prayer in obedience to the Lord's command, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). It is a high point in what ought to be our ongoing, year long, daily prayer for a real vocation culture in the whole Church, but especially for special vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Pope Benedict XVI has written a reflective message to mark this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations. He entitles it "Vocations, Gift of the Love of God." You can access the Pope's message simply by browsing for Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2012. Whether we download it and print it out from

the internet or get it through some other source, we should all be reading it.

One passage particularly caught my eye: *"Dear brother bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, catechists, pastoral workers and all of you who are engaged in the field of educating young people: I fervently exhort you to pay close attention to those members of parish communities, associations and ecclesial movements who sense a call to the priesthood or to a special consecration. It is important for the Church to create the conditions that will permit many young people to say 'yes' in generous response to God's loving call."*

As Salesians we recognize how "it is important for the Church to create the conditions." As members of the Church we Salesians also recognize how urgent it is, how important, how charismatic for us, to create those conditions especially among young people. We call that CREATING A VOCATION CULTURE. Since the last General Chapter (GC 26) the whole Salesian Family is challenged to change our attitudes and structures so that we see ever more clearly the unbreakable link between evangelization and vocations. Never again can we decouple them or assign them to different people. We are all evangelizers of the young and therefore we are all promoters of the vocation to follow Christ with one's life.

And does not the next General Chapter (GC 27) already confirm

that challenge when it calls us to the work and temperance of a new evangelical radicality? In our daily work and activities, getting to know and imitate Don Bosco better can only mean organizing our preferences, our priorities, our everyday choices in order to give greater, more transparent, and, yes, radical witness to the life of the Gospel that Jesus calls us to. This way, besides our prayer, our work and temperance will also attract new vocations to stay with Don Bosco. Do we need to be convinced how much the young of our day and in our area of the country need such compelling and attractive witness?

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

April 2012

- 26 Meeting with Bishop Garcia, Monterey
- 27-30 Visitation, Sts. Peter and Paul, San Francisco

May 2012

- 1 Visitation, Sts. Peter and Paul, San Francisco
- 2 Provincial Council Meeting, San Francisco
- 3-9 Office Days
- 10 Salesian Boys & Girls Club Board Retreat, Los Angeles



Salesian Initiative

On April 10-12, leaders from twelve Salesian organizations attended the “Salesian Initiative.” The gathering was held at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center in Detroit, MI. Hosted by DeSales Resources and Ministries and DeSales Spirituality Services, leaders or their representatives were invited to share the mission of their ministry and consider avenues to better promote our shared spirituality.

Those representing the Salesians of Don Bosco were Fr. Joe Boenzi, SDB, from our province and Fr. John Puntino, SDB, from the eastern province. Representatives also came from these religious congregations: Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary, First Federation; Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary, Second Federation; Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales; Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Wilmington-Philadelphia and Toledo-Detroit Provinces; Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales; Salesians of Don Bosco, Eastern and Western

Provinces; St. Francis de Sales Association; Salesian Network; DeSales Resources and Ministries; DeSales Spirituality Services. Oblate, Don Heet, facilitated the meeting.

Among the topics discussed: the potential of sharing Salesian Spirituality in our culture today, opportunities for collaboration, sharing spirituality with the 30-40 year old, vocations, youth education, and the use of technology. A collaborative Salesian Spirituality web page and the upcoming November Salesian Convention were also considered. The attendees agreed to continue the work begun at this gathering. A future meeting will be planned. A transcribed summary of this meeting will be available.

In general, all those involved with this first “Salesian Initiative” found it to be greatly beneficial and look to this to be the beginning of a positive force in the sharing of our Salesian charism.

Salesian Family Invite

There will be a

Memorial Mass for

Anne Gibbs

Salesian Cooperator

St. Dominic Savio Parish

Thursday May 10th

7:00 pm

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
Weekly publications will be distributed on Thursdays. Please submit news for publication by Friday of each week.
Send contributions to:
intouch@salesiansc.org.

A BIG “I DO” AT ST. DOMINIC SAVIO PARISH IN BELLFLOWER

By Dianne Lumsdaine

“I Do,” was said in a big way this past weekend at St. Dominic Savio Church in Bellflower, California, as over 18 couples had their marriage blessed in two separate marriage celebrations.

The largest group by far was on April 21, 2012, when 14 couples had their marriages blessed by Fr. Avelino Lorenzo, SDB, at a Spanish language liturgy. This was followed on April 22, 2012, as Fr. Ted Montemayor, SDB, blessed the marriages of four couples in an English liturgy. The parish provided the marriage preparation program in March, and then flowers, music, and a cake reception for the marriage celebrations.

Especially lively was the Mariachi provided music at the Spanish liturgy, as well as in the joyful procession after the Mass to the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in

the church’s plaza. The couples brought their flowers to Our Blessed Mother and prayed for her guidance and intercession in their married lives. There were tears and many smiles among the families and friends in attendance. “I have waited over 30 years for this day,” one happy bride exclaimed. One of the grooms explained, “I wanted to be able to receive Holy Eucharist at my son’s First Communion in May, and now I can walk hand in hand with my wife and do that! I feel so blessed!”

It was truly a blessed weekend at St. Dominic Savio Parish.

In addition to the 18 couples who were wed this weekend, there are over 10 other couples who are part of a “Group Covalidation Project” and are in various stages of preparation to make their marriages sacramental. This project was the inspiration of Fr. Avelino and Sr.

Dolores Riojas, FMA, during religious education registration for children last fall. Many families registering their children for First Communion preparation commented that they were not married in the Catholic Church but would like to be. Some thought they had to be confirmed to be married in the Church. Others simply felt they could not afford the expense of a traditional wedding. Fr. Avelino and Sr. Dolores sought the collaboration of Deacon couples Joe and Dianne Lumsdaine and Willy and Carmen Arban, Parish Secretary, Ana Garcia, as well as George and Virginia Hazboun and Maria Trujillo, the English and Spanish Marriage Encounter leadership at the parish.

Thanks to the hard work of the parish, these newly-weds are now enjoying full communion with the church.



Visiting the Street Children in Ecuador

By Juan Carlos Montenegro

Salesian High School in East Los Angeles is looking for new ways to promote a culture of missionary service among their youth. The school Coordinators of Youth Ministry, Paulina Esparza and Mia Aguilar, together with Juan Carlos Montenegro, the Province Mission Animation Delegate, traveled to Ecuador to meet with Fr. Francisco Sanchez, SDB, the Director of the Street Children project.

Some of these street children come from very poor neighborhoods. They live in so much poverty that their only option is to go to the streets and work at whatever is possible to make some money to help their families. The Salesians

present offer them an alternative for their lives.

On this trip Paulina and Mia had the opportunity to meet the children with whom they will work in June when they bring a group of seven youth from Salesian High School. This missionary group will then have the opportunity to meet and accompany the street children while sharing and reflecting with the Salesian Community.

We hope and pray that this experience will be a source of hope and change in the lives of the street children and in the lives of the young people who will serve as missionaries.



St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois

Gospel roads: Los Angeles, CA

This past March, 12 students from the University of Illinois, Msgr. Ketcham, Sr. Bernadette, and Sr. Linda participated in a one week alternative spring break trip to Los Angeles. Each day was centered around faith in action as we engage in service, daily Mass/ prayer, community building and recreation. Here is one of the students reflection from this Salesian Gospel Roads experience. Next trip is to New Jersey/ New York from May 14th-21st... keep us all in your prayers!



"The hospitality, warmth, and love of the entire Salesian community was wonderfully overwhelming."

Emily Plattner, Senior

I have often heard it said that when you are serving others, it is really you yourself who seems to reap the largest reward. I have come to understand and believe this in the past with previous service experiences, and my experiences serving on the SJO Gospel Roads trip to LA were no different. We were given many opportunities to serve people of all ages and backgrounds and it was such a blessing to do this. Like my past service experiences, I was expecting to feel a little bit like I was receiving more than I was giving, but what I did not expect was the form in which this came about. The hospitality, warmth, and love of the entire Salesian community was wonderfully overwhelming. Each student who came on the trip could not stop praising how hospitable and welcoming everyone was. Whenever we would bring this up to one of the sisters, priests, parishioners, teachers, or someone else we met in the Salesian community, they did not seem to think much of it because it was such a natural part of their spirituality. We were brought into the community with open and welcoming arms and hearts. There were some parts of the trip in which I truly felt that I was being served myself instead of on a service trip to serve others. Some of my favorite highlights of the trip were helping with the Marian Club at St. Mary's, working with students individually with their school work, and meeting so many wonderful and diverse members of the Salesian community. I could not think of a better way to have spent the spring break of my senior year.

Message of the Holy Father for the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday April 29, 2012

Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be celebrated on 29 April 2012, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, prompts us to meditate on the theme: Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God.

The source of every perfect gift is God who is Love – Deus caritas est: “Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him” (1 Jn 4:16). Sacred Scripture tells the story of this original bond between God and man, which precedes creation itself. Writing to the Christians of the city of Ephesus, Saint Paul raises a hymn of gratitude and praise to the Father who, with infinite benevolence, in the course of the centuries accomplishes his universal plan of salvation, which is a plan of love. In his Son Jesus – Paul states – “he chose us, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him in love” (Eph 1:4). We are loved by God even “before” we come into existence! Moved solely by his unconditional love, he created us “not ... out of existing things” (cf. 2 Macc 7:28), to bring us into full communion with Him.

In great wonderment before the work of God’s providence, the Psalmist exclaims: “When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you arranged, what is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you care for him?” (Ps 8:3-4). The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: every creature, and in particular every human person, is the fruit of God’s thought and an act of his love, a love that is boundless, faithful and everlasting (cf. Jer 31:3). [Read more](#)



“Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.”

- St. Augustine

Vocation Sunday

April 29, 2012 - Prayer of the Faithful for Vocations

Celebrant: God our Heavenly Father, on this Vocations Sunday when we reflect on the fact that we are your beloved children, we confidently make our prayers to you.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

1. For Pope Benedict XVI and all those who lead our Church:

May they be inspired by the Holy Spirit with wisdom, love and confidence to lead us along the road of holiness. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

2. For all those who are baptised in your name:

May we always celebrate with gratitude the giftedness and uniqueness of each person. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

3. For priests and those in religious life:

May they rejoice in the vows they have made, and serve the Lord and His people with renewed hope and generosity. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

4. For those who are in formation for priesthood and religious life:

May they grow in the understanding that they are called to be ministers of God's mercy, love and compassion. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

5. For all who are contemplating a vocation to priesthood or religious life:

May they have the courage to follow the longings of their hearts and may they receive the help and support they need to make the right choices. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

6. We remember those who have died, especially....

May they rest in the peace and joy of your Kingdom, and rejoice forever with those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We pray...

Lord graciously hear us.

Celebrant:

God of life,

You call us each by name and have a unique plan for our lives. In your great providence listen to these our prayers, and answer them if they are your will, through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

Sewer Line Replacement

By Bro. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

WARNING! If you visit the job site, remember it is a “hard hat area”. Everyone, yes even Inspector Anderson, must wear a hard hat while visiting the construction site. You can pick up a hard hat at the job site construction office.

One might say that last week was a slow week. On Friday the 13th, there was rain. So on Monday morning the carpenters pumped the rain water out of the elevator pit and the ground was too wet to do any further infrastructure work.

The men from United System Company worked very hard to finish installing both the fire alarm and smoke detector wires. They installed the necessary electrical boxes for the fire protection equipment. The only things left to install are the fire protection indicator panel in front of the hall building and to “fire caulk” any holes drilled either through the joists or blocking.

The plumbers investigated the soundness of the 6 inch sewer pipe from the hall building to the City’s lateral and found that the pipe contained tree roots. Last Saturday the men dug up the old terra cotta sewer pipe and installed a new ABS pipe

with the clean outs.

In the middle of the week, Inspector Anderson was out to look at the project. He spent most of his time looking at the electrical wiring on the third floor. Items that struck the inspector’s eye were empty holes in the ceiling joists and blocking, electrical flex conduit passing through the joists or blocking without “fire caulking” and the data wires without having any type of protection as they passed through the ceiling joists or blocking. He told the contractor that the holes must be filled in and fire caulked. Regarding the data wires, he said either put a metal ring around wires that pass through the joist for protection or pull all the data wires out and run them through a 6 inch metal conduit pipe. The data contractor is looking into a solution for this unexpected problem.

At the weekly construction meeting on Friday morning, Alfredo Urbris, Vencor’s construction supervisor, told the group that next week he would like to power wash the exterior of the building and then schedule the painting contractor. After the exterior painting is completed, the new windows will be installed.



The plumbers digging the sewer pipe line ditch.



The red wire electrical box is for the smoke detector system. Notice the hole in the blocking through which the red wire passes which needs to be sealed.



Mr. Alfredo Urbirs, Project supervisor, watches the digging.



Electrical flex conduit needs fire caulking (red color) and the drilled hole in the blocking needs to be filled in.



Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

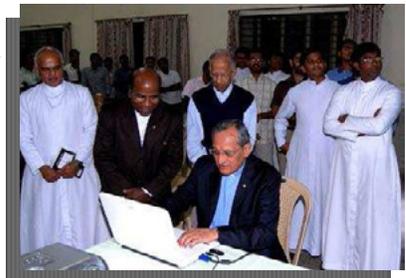
A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

**Praying for missionaries
revitalises the whole
Salesian Community**

The proclamation of the Gospel is made effective, with the grace of God, when it is accompanied by prayer. So, the primary prerequisite of the mission is the missionary's deep relationship with God (*Redemptoris Missio*, 78). On the other hand, everyone has the opportunity to collaborate with the Church's missionary activity through prayer, sacrifice and acceptance of sufferings in life, and offering these to God with love for the missionary apostolate of the Church, and for the missionaries who are often either in hostile situations or are suffering due to persecution. The prayer of every Salesian community is always animated by the missionary trait of Don Bosco's *Da mihi animas*. All the confreres, especially the elderly and sick, are also missionaries when they offer their prayers and suffering for missionaries and for missionary vocations!

It is in this light that every year a prayer card based on the theme of the **Salesian Mission Day** is printed and distributed to all communities. In some places there is also the practice of praying the rosary missionary or to abstain from something during Lent and offer its cash equivalent for the mission. Prayer and sacrifice for the missionaries foster greater love for the Church and growth of missionary trait that revitalizes the entire local and Province community.

It is for this reason that, under the leadership of Fr. T.C. George, Regional Delegate for Missionary Animation of South Asia, that the «**Prayer Mission Hub**» was launched by the Rector Major on Feb 22, 2011 to promote an apostolate of prayer for a springtime of missionary fervour which will bear abundant fruits in the South Asian region. Prayer requests for mission areas, for the Provinces or specific situations are sent to the missionary group of the *Kristu Jyoti* Salesian Theologate in Bangalore, India (prayermissionhub@gmail.com). The group functions as a hub. It, then, forwards these requests to missionary groups, formation houses, and individuals in the region creating a missionary movement of prayer!



For additional copies of the [prayer card](#) for the **Salesian Mission Day 2012** write to srafalko@sdb.org

**May 24th - Day of Prayer
for the Church in China**

Grant them joy in their communion with the universal Church. Bless them so that the seed they plant during their years of sufferings, patience and love will be richly harvested.

Grant mercy, O Lord, to those brothers and sisters who chose to be separated from you; may they return to the one fold and One Shepherd».

Ignatius Cardinal Kung, Bishop of Shanghai (1991)

«O Lord, comfort China and those persecuted for Christ in that great country:



The witness of life of the Salesian missionaries in East Timor is the foundation of my missionary vocation



The first time met the Salesians was at the Salesian Oratory. Living with the Salesians, especially with the missionaries during my pre aspirantate and aspirantate for six years, was a wonderful and unforgettable experience for me. I believe the Lord has revealed to me his face and his love through the witness of tireless work of Salesian missionaries, their presence among us and their generous spirit. I am convinced that they were mediators of God's love for our people and our country especially for young people. It was this experience that gave birth to my missionary vocation.

After my practical training, while I was in Jakarta, Indonesia, I had the opportunity to reflect more about my missionary life. After a long period of discernment and dialogue with my Provincial, I expressed my desire to be a missionary by writing my application to the Rector Major and was destined to Argentina. I attended the *Course for New Missionaries* in Rome and Turin in September 2008 and received the missionary cross from the hands of Fr. Pascual Chávez at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. I arrived in Argentina on October 1, 2008, the memorial of Saint Therese, patroness of the missions.

In Patagonia, I learnt the language and local culture, and I had my first pastoral experience among the youth of the parish. It was a very beautiful experience of fraternal and apostolic life, in particular with the natives of Patagonia Plateau Gangan, Trelew, Chubut. It cannot be denied that the first few months cost me a lot because of the language, climate and of culture shock. The temperature is very different from that in Indonesia and Timor: Here it is extremely cold in winter. I am grateful that so far I have not had any problems and at the moment my health is fine. I am happy as a missionary in Patagonia, the land dreamt by our father Don Bosco.



I thank God for my family who taught and transmitted to me the values of the Gospel and for the gift of my Salesian and missionary vocation. Thanks to them I am here today among the confreres in Patagonia. I am also grateful to the Salesians of East Timor who have accompanied me in my formation. During my initial introduction into this new culture and new people I felt comfortable, guided, supported and loved by my Salesian community. My community has always been my support. Now I know that young people of this land sincerely accept me as a friend and brother.

Cl. Natalino Venancio Freitas de Jesus
Timorese, Missionary in Patagonia-Argentina



Salesian Missionary Intention

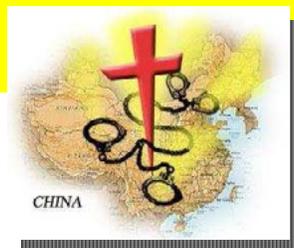
ASIA - For the Church in China

That it may grow in ecclesial communion and that Chinese communities abroad may be evangelised.

The Holy Father invites us every year precisely on the feast of Mary Help of Christians, May 24, to pray for the Church in China. The Church is in a very complex, delicate and painful situation. It is an invitation to pray that the official and unofficial church may grow in communion, for true reconciliation and fidelity to the Church of Jesus Christ, and to the Successor of Peter.

At the same time we also ask the Lord to send apostles to the communities of the Chinese diaspora, now spread across all continents. The most recent wave alone of Chinese migrants in Africa, is already more than 25 million.

We ask the Lord to raise up fervent missionaries to the Chinese living outside their homeland .



All previous issues of "Cagliero 11" are available at purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliero