

March 1, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

The week of March 5-11, 2012, starting this coming Monday, has been designated

Juvenile Justice Week of Faith and Healing.

It's an annual observance that unites people of all faith traditions to raise awareness of the individual, community, and social needs arising from the current juvenile justice system. The week is a time to open our hearts and minds through prayer, education, service and advocacy.

In California alone there are 15,000 young people detained in juvenile correction facilities. Often victims of abuse themselves and often witnesses of violence within their own families, they generally have not benefited from what a sound education can provide. Every support system has failed them and they are wounded psychologically and emotionally, not to mention spiritually. Most challenging of all are the young people sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Not minimizing in any way the crimes that young people are capable of that have brought about these sentences, we must also recognize as educators that a minor can repent, can mature, can grow, can ask for forgiveness, can acknowledge his or her childish

and selfish criminal behavior, and can begin working for the restoration of the common good in society. Incarcerating them for life tells them they have no hope, and worse, that we have given up all hope for them.

Now I believe this should remind us Salesians of Don Bosco's early work with incarcerated young people, especially this year as we are reading the *Memoirs* and coming to know Don Bosco's story better. His experience with the hopelessness of youth in prison was a catalyst for his preventive system. In all our presences and works and communities we are trying to prevent young people from getting into such trouble, to accompany them as loving adults as they make choices and realize the consequences. Most of our work as Salesians is preventive, true, but let us not also abandon those kids who are locked away in juvenile justice systems. The Good Shepherd does not give up on the lost, but leaves the others to go after the lost.

I encourage us all to sensitize ourselves, especially this week, to the most abandoned of all young people, kids in juvenile halls. This Juvenile Justice Week of Faith and Healing ought to challenge us to get involved, remembering always the example of Don Bosco, and especially the words of Jesus who makes how we take care of "these least ones" a criterion for entrance into his kingdom of true justice.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

March 2012

- 1-4 Office Days
- Vocation Discernment Weekend, Berkeley
- 5-7 Provincial Council Meeting, Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz
- 7 Meeting with Bishop Garcia, Monterey
- 8 Board Meeting, DBTI, 10:30AM
- 9-16 Visitation: Berkeley
- 12 Board Meeting, San Francisco Salesian Boys & Girls Club

Pray for Our Sick

Juan Trinidad

father of Fr. Mel

heart, lung, and kidney problems
home hospice care

Fr. Bob Stein, SDB

Second heart PET scan

March 7

May They Rest in Peace



Mr. Donald Clark

February 25, 2012

brother-in-law of Bro. Steve Standard,
SDB

Salesian Sisters, Western Province, Celebrate 25th Anniversary

By Sr. Rachel Carotti, FMA



Five FMA Provincials who have led the Province of Mary Immaculate since it's founding: (Left to Right) Sr. Martina Ponce, 1993-1999; Sr. Phyliss Neves, 1999-2005; Sr. Cecilia Besi, 1987-1993; Sr. Sandra Neves, 2005-2011; Sr. Partricia King, 2011 to present

The 25th Anniversary events of February 11, 2012, marked the present while remembering the past and looking to the future with life-giving hope! It was a uniquely all-encompassing, enthusiastic and joy-filled experience! The day began with a prayer service that embraced with gratitude all that had happened from 1987 to the present, stressing particularly the leadership of our five provincials and acknowledging the 23 Sisters who have entered eternity since the province began.

The beautiful Our Lady of the Lake Chapel was the setting where Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of



Sr. Cesira Porotti offers certificate of gratitude to first FMA Provincial, Sr. Cecilia Besi.

San Antonio concelebrated the Anniversary Mass together with Bishop Yanta, a long-time friend of the FMA's, Fr. Tim Ploch, SDB Provincial, together with other Salesians and priests. Not only were all five former FMA provincials present, the FMA mother-province of the Eastern USA was represented by the provincial, Sr. Karen Dunn, and other Sisters. Also present were nearly all the sisters, the candidates, postulants and novices of the Province. Sisters' parents and relatives, Cooperators, teachers, staff members and students from our school communities, benefactors and friends filled the chapel and unmistakably manifested the spirit of the day in their Mass responses and singing.



Fr. Tim Ploch, Provincial (second) Fr. Ted Montemayor (third), Fr. Tom Prendiville (fourth) gather to concelebrate Eucharist with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-siller and other priests friends of the FMA.

The evening gala at the Omni offered yet another opportunity for the Salesian family spirit to shine with simple elegance as nearly 500 people gathered to dine together and to honor the first Provincial, Sr. Cecilia Besi, and the Provincial House architect, Mr. Jack Duffin (1929-2011) in memoriam.

The evening program, emceed by past-pupil, Mr. Patrick Gee, began with a DVD created by the family of Sr. LanVy Tran, which showed children from many of our communities doing a symbolic dance to the singing of the Magnificat, including also a segment

Around the Province

of our elder Sisters singing the same song.

Holy Cross priest, Fr. Joe Corpora, spoke in the name of all FMA past-pupils and shared how the FMA, who taught him in grade school, made him feel loved by God. In his remarks Fr. Joe also highlighted how today more than ever before, children need a Catholic school education.

Sr. Cesira Pierotti, who was vicar during Sr. Cecilia Besi's years as provincial, then gave a warm sisterly address that culminated in the presentation of a certificate of gratitude to Sr. Cecilia.

Sr. Sandra Neaves spoke of her fond memories of Mr. Duffin and of his dedication to building a beautiful, bright and enduring Provincial House for the Sisters. In her comments Sr. Sandra not



All the FMA, novices, postulants and candidates sing together "O Qual Sorte!" (What a joy it is to be an FMA!)

only quoted Mr. Duffin but also praised him for who he truly was, a man of faith, devoted to his family and a talented architect.

Province vicar, Sr. Theresa Sironi, presented our provincial, Sr. Patricia King, with a plaque for the heritage room as a remembrance of the celebration. Sr. Karen Dunn, FMA provincial of the Eastern Province gifted us with three beautifully framed enlargements of the FMA in the early days of our presence in the USA. Sr. Karen focused on the

strong Marian devotion that characterized the beginning of our Western Province, as both the east and the west felt the pain of separation.

The school children recited the 25th anniversary prayer in unison and the day came to a grateful and jubilant conclusion with all the FMA, novices, postulants and candidates singing "O Qual Sorte!" (What a joy it is to be an FMA!)

The event was successful because it was the result of many hands and heart working together. All-inclusive gratitude and joyful unity strongly characterized the day and has also defined our province from its origin. In actuality the celebration continues as we grow as a province with our many collaborators and with the powerful help of Mary!



Children from FMA schools recite 25th anniversary prayer

Y-Life Retreat



After 3 years of Confirmation preparation, numerous young people from St. Dominic Savio experienced their first Y-Life Retreat. This retreat is a peer-led, Catholic retreat centered on “finding God in all things.” It is modeled off of Kairos and Cursillo de Cristiandad.

The retreat focuses on loving Christ and others in a more fulfilling way by helping young people to discover their personal relationship with God and how God communicates directly with the young people. This is a special time that helps young people examine the ways God speaks to them through relationships, experiences, joys, disappointments, desires, and so forth. It is a time of discerning and discovery.

We congratulate all the young people who are getting ready to receive their Confirmation in May and all the groups who supported this retreat!!!

If you need more information about Y-Life please contact youthministry@saintdominicsavio.org

Br. Zanella’s Looking Up



In the picture nurse Brigette and Father Henry Magbity are bestowing lots of love and affection on Brother Zanella. Father Henry is a priest of the Makeni diocese in Sierra Leone, West Africa. The speedy and short of miraculous recent recovery of Brother Zanella is attributed to the anointing by Father Henry. Thank you, Father Henry, and happy apostolate in Sierra Leone.

– Fr. Al Mengon

Visitation & Parish Mission at St. Luke’s Church



Fr. Tim Ploch, Provincial, meets with Children’s Religious Education participants and Sister Odetta Bonini, MSC.



Luke’s Lenten Mission - February 25-29



Fr. John Roche stresses a point during the homily while Fr. Tim Ploch and Deacon Glenn Sell pay close attention.

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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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.

Remember Mariano Morante

By Elizabeth Gammara

St. Dominic Savio's parishoners gathered to pray the Rosary and celebrate the life of Mariano Morante Fournier, a Salesian Cooperator, who had died tragically last week. The Rosary and Prayer Service were organized by the parish's Bereavement Team with the participation of Fr. Avelino Lorenzo, SDB, who lead the Rosary, which was recited in both English and Spanish.

Mariano Morante had been an active parishioner for close to 15 years. He served as a Eucharistic Minister and was an active member of ADMA, "Sin Fronteras" Past Pupils, the Legion of Mary, and the Spanish Choir, "Coro Cana." He also was inducted as a Salesian Cooperator in May of 2011, which fulfilled one of Mariano's dreams and hopes, as he had a very close connection with the Salesians since his childhood. He was baptized in Lima, Peru at the Basilica de Maria Auxiliadora. This was his parish and the home of the Oratory which he frequented as he was growing up. The seed of his Salesian spirituality blossomed through the years and permeated his many years of apostolic ministry.

In his application to be inducted as a Cooperator, he wrote: "As a lay person, I



Mariano Morante with Salesian Cooperator formation group

am committed to live the Salesian Spirituality; I will continue to love and imitate Don Bosco with the inspiration and help of Mary Help of Christians." He added, "I truly want to become a Salesian Cooperator, as I understand the responsibility we have to evangelize as an apostle and want to devote my efforts to serve the young --but also the parents!" He took his initial formation with gratitude commenting

that this was a great opportunity for him to strengthen his Salesianity. He was an avid reader and enjoyed going through the recommended bibliography and studying the Project for Apostolic Life.

Mariano was a "people" person: a friendly and caring individual with a special sense of humor. People all over the parish knew him as he served as the unofficial hospitality minister who always welcomed new parishoners and visitors with a smile.

We often go through life wondering what kind of an example we are or have been. Mariano made a difference and left a beautiful trail that can inspire others to be like him.

You made a difference, Mariano, and are an example for all of us! We can only imagine how happy you will be when you get to meet St. John Bosco! Put in a good word for us, will you?



Wanted!!!



Salesian Volunteers 2011 -2012

We are **looking for 8 young people** who would like **to serve God** for one year **as a Salesian Volunteer.**

We **need your help** to recruit volunteers. Our dream is that **every community** will **send 2 young people** every year to serve as volunteers in our province.

Would you help?



Pre-Volunteer Retreat

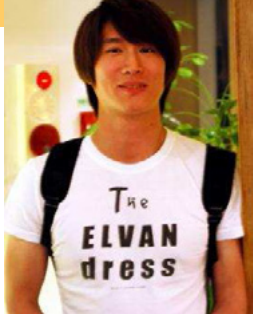
March 8-11, 2012 at Don Bosco Hall

With your help we will be able to change the lives of more young people in our province!
Please be part of this new way of ministry in our province.



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

Myung Hun



My friends led me to Jesus

Dear friends of the Salesian mission and missionaries, Here is a story of a young Korean showing how his Christian friends have proclaimed to him Jesus accompanying him at every step in his journey of faith, yet allowing the Spirit to act in his heart: “My name is Myung Hun. I was a person with a rather negative attitude, without great dreams and a life that is far from exemplary. A chain of events show the hand of God in my life: A friend of mine invited me many times to visit the Catholic Church, but I did not take notice of it. One day in the cafeteria of the University I saw him making the sign of the cross before eating. I was so impressed by his gesture that after I felt like I was ‘caught’ by someone unknown to visit the Church. One day, while waiting at the bus stop, I saw a poster advertising a movie that my friend had earlier recommended that I go and watch “Don’t cry for me Tonj”, about Fr. John Lee a missionary in Sudan. After watching the movie I felt so many things in my heart. I wondered why he gave his whole life and all his energies to others. On the other hand, I realised that when I die, perhaps nobody will even cry for me! Then I decided: “I want to be baptised!”

So I started the catechumenate in the Church next to the University, then I joined the Bible study group on campus. 3 days before the feast of Don Bosco, I received an invitation to participate in the recollection of the Salesian Youth Movement. I also accepted the invitation of the Assistant Parish Priest to serve as an assistant at the children’s catechism. At the University I also accepted the invitation of the chaplain to be a tutor of the young Korean-Chinese migrants who have no one with them. I did all these because I discovered the joy in serving others which I have never felt before. Last year I was baptised on the day of Pentecost and I chose the name John Bosco. Looking back at the journey I have made these past two years I realised how the good Lord has guided me to the knowledge of Jesus through friends who proclaimed to me Jesus with respect and freedom, accompanying me step by step. Thanks to them the little flame of faith has now become a great light. Now I want to share Jesus too with other young people!”

I wish that the Salesian Missions Day 2012 may be a stimulus to all of us to “Tell the Story of Jesus” to our friends who do not know him yet!

Václav Klement

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

When storytelling becomes Gospel proclamation

Blessed John Paul II highlighted the possibility of proclaiming the Gospel through storytelling in *Ecclesia in Asia*. Unlike direct proclamation which could appear as a culturally insensitive and religiously disrespectful monologue to followers of other religions or non believers, the narration of the story of Jesus springs from the experience of the Christian storyteller, and takes place in the context of the local culture and a web of relationships among friends and neighbours. It is rooted in an attitude of mutual listening and narrating, of giving and receiving, of deepening and enriching one another’s faith and understanding.

Impelled by his love for Christ and for those who do not know Him, every Christian narrates the story of Jesus and his faith in him with respect and without forcing it on the listeners yet never timid when the Holy Spirit, the Great Storyteller, opens the door to proclaim explicitly that Jesus is the Saviour and the Answer to the fundamental questions of human existence. It also implies a convincing witness of Christian life, and the capacity and necessity of opening one’s heart to the other and of speaking one’s mind with courage and respect. Only then could it foster the development of true friendship which opens the way to narrate the story of one’s own encounter with Jesus and on the meaning of life and human existence. The rest is left to the Spirit who works in the hearts of the listeners even before our arrival!

Fr. Alfred Maravilla, SDB
Missions Department

I want to share with the Achuars the faith that I have received from missionaries



The witness of the love for Christ of Salesian missionaries in my country has opened my heart to ask to be sent to the foreign mission. My dream was fulfilled when the Rector Major sent me in Ecuador.

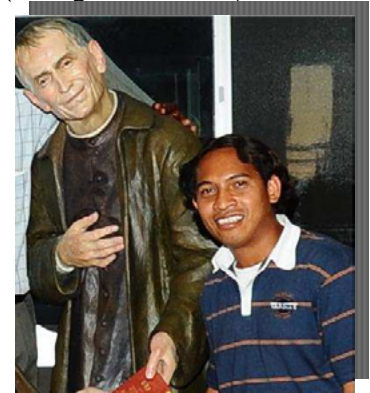
I am grateful to the Provincial who sent me to the post-novitiate in Quito under the guidance of the Rector for a year of introduction. I had the opportunity to attend the Spanish course and postnovices helped me to learn Spanish and the traditions and culture of Ecuador. It was not easy. I felt like becoming a child again. But during this time I also had the experience of accompanying youth groups every weekend which gave me the opportunity not only to practice Spanish and share the love of Christ, but above all to understand that God is already present among the young people before of my arrival.

After a year I was sent to a community in the forest. Wasakentsa is far from everything. There are no buses to get there. It is reachable only by small plane. I was in an international community (an Argentine rector, an Italian vice rector, I an Indonesian and two Ecuadorian volunteers) which ministers to an indigenous group called the Achuar. We have a secondary school with a boarding house. I was the assistant in the boarding house as well as teacher in the school. We work with the Marianitas sisters who are responsible of the girls boarding house. They also teach in the school.

The Achuars have their own language, traditions, culture and laws. It takes time for us to learn all these and above all to accept that these contain the seeds of the Gospel. To help us live like the people we minister to we eat like the Achuars every day: bananas, yucca and fideo. Sometimes we eat rice with *chicha* (traditional drink of the Achuars).

Certainly there are difficulties, but the personal and communal prayer as well as mutual support have helped me to continue our mission. The example of the missionaries in my country, like Fr. José Carbonell, and of the missionaries here, like Fr. Luigi Bolla, not only continue to impel me to share the faith in Jesus Christ that I have received but also strengthen me to continue this difficult mission with the Achuar people.

I am sure that we are here to do the will of God, so He is always with us. This year I was assigned in Guayaquil. I'm glad and happy to be a Salesian missionary in this country. I hope that my missionary vocation will grow every day here in Ecuador, the land beloved by God!



Cl. Agustinus Togo
Indonesian, missionary in Ecuador

1st On-Going Formation Course for Missionaries in America

The *Centro Salesiano Regional de Formación Permanente*, Quito and the Missions Department announce the 1st On-Going Formation Course for Salesian Missionaries in all the Provinces of America from August 6 to 27, 2012. For more information write to cagliero11@gmail.com. Send your application possibly before April 1, 2012.



Salesian Missionary Intention

INDIA - for Christians in the state of Orissa

That Christians who live in areas disturbed by community violence in 2007-2008 may live in security and build-up relationships of mutual respect and trust in the territory which has suffered so much violence against Christians.

Four years have already passed since the acts of violence against Christians in Orissa (2007-2008), where churches, convents were looted, and many Christians have suffered martyrdom. We pray for all Christians in the area. A new presence in Orissa in Muniguda (Province of Hyderabad), which is a project suggested for the Salesian Mission Day 2012, has a special need of our prayers.

