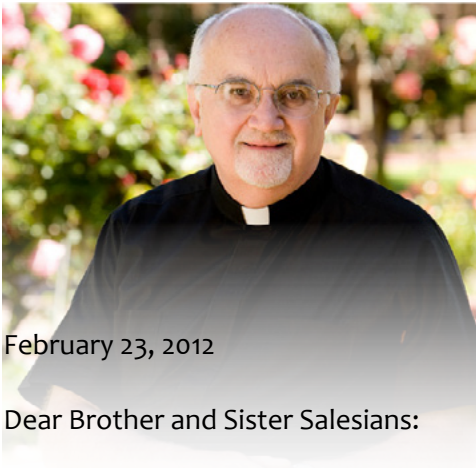




INTOUCH

Feb 23
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



February 23, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

We began yesterday the season of Lent. Is there such a thing as a Salesian Lent? If we are Salesians we are first of all followers of Jesus. Like all our fellow disciples and Christians we Salesians are following Jesus, denying ourselves, taking up our cross, living in hope of the resurrection. And so like all Christians, we Salesians also give alms, pray more and eat less. In that sense there is no such thing as a Salesian Lent.

But in another sense there is. What could be more “Lenten” than **work and temperance**? Asked to describe the Salesian spirit we tend to think of pastoral love for the young, union with God, sense of church, family spirit, loving kindness, initiative and flexibility, the preventive system as method and spirituality, optimism and joy. But we may tend to forget about work and temperance. It was about work and temperance, not about any other element of our spirit, that Don Bosco said “Work and temperance will make the Congregation flourish, whereas the seeking of an easy and comfortable life will instead bring about its death” (C 18).

The “work” part of work and

temperance is not mindless obsession with doing, doing, doing. The kind of work which becomes penance enough is that tireless energy with which we Salesians are to give ourselves to our mission. Anyone living and working in our presences will find countless opportunities to put his or her own comfort aside and get out there among the kids with an active Salesian presence, as an educator, evangelizer, friend.

And then there’s “temperance.” Eating, drinking, resting, and even working (!) in simplicity and moderation requires virtue. They require strength of character and attention to the moment. Temperance, our Rule of Life says, gives us strength to control our heart, master ourselves and remain even-tempered.

If we practice work and temperance during this Lent, we will not need to look for unusual or severe penances. The daily demands of our life and ministry, the renunciations of the apostolic life, accepted in true Salesian style, are alms, prayer and fasting enough. Don’t get me wrong. I’m not advocating Lent Lite. Give up whatever the Spirit leads you to give up, especially if the Spirit leads you to give up *everything else but souls*. In Don Bosco’s words, *Give me souls, take away everything else*. Now that’s a lifetime’s Lent for the Salesian.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

February 2012

- 18-23 Visitation, Salesian High, Richmond
- 23 Rinaldi and Piperni Trusts Meeting
- 24-28 Visitation, St. Luke’s Parish, Stockton
- 29 Office Day

March 2012

- 1-4 Office Days
- 5-7 Provincial Council Meeting, Villa Maria
- 7 Meeting with Bishop Garcia, Monterey
- 8 Board Meeting, DBTI, 10:30AM
Board Meeting, East LA Club, 12:00PM

Pray for Our Sick

Juan Trinidad

*father of Fr. Mel
heart, lung, and kidney problems
home hospice care*

Fr. Bob Stein, SDB

*heart PET scan
February 22*

Rita Liptak

*Sister-in-law of Fr. Ed Liptak
Heart Attack*

May They Rest in Peace



Mr. Mariano Morante

*February 21, 2012
Salesian Cooperator at Savio*

Augusto Navarro, Jr

*February 22, 2012
Uncle of Fr. Ramon Zarate and Joey Zarate*

Relationships and Bosco Tech Students

By Bro. Bob Hennings, SDB

St. Joseph's Youth Renewal Center hosted the Sophomore Retreat last Thursday. Chris Beltran, with an assortment of other staff members, novices, and some older students, presented the topic of relationship building. The students were asked to consider and focus on three relationships; relationship with God, relationship with parents, and relationships with possible mates.

The reflection on their relationship with God began with an exercise where they were asked to walk through a mine field while being blindfolded and receiving directions from a classmate. Essentially, the mine field of life can be navigated to our salvation, if we carefully listen to the voice of God and ignore the miss-directions given by the world and bad companions.

The reflection on their relationship with parents also began with an exercise. In this exercise, they were asked to solve



a problem with various limitations that were placed on them that required them to work in unison in order to accomplish the task. Basically, we can do very little in our early years without the guidance, aid and love of our parents.

The reflection on their relationship with possible mates was centered on the theory and ideas from Sternberg's Triangle Theory for Love and Relationships.

The three parts of the triangle are Intimacy, Passion, and Commitment. The students were asked to reflect on their relationships and how balanced or unbalanced they were and what was needed to either maintain or establish a healthy balanced relationship.

Meanwhile, the older students back at Bosco Tech were also working on their relationships with others. They were generously donating an important aspect of life: their blood, to help others continue living their lives through this wonderful gift.

Diocesan Day of Reflection Connects St. John Bosco to Year for Youth

By John Andrews

As the leadership of the Diocese of San Bernardino continues to reflect on youth during the Year for Youth proclaimed last August by Bishop Gerald Barnes, the diocesan Curia and Presbyteral Council gathered together for a day of reflection on the spirituality of St. John Bosco on January 27.

The Curia includes all diocesan department heads, the Chancellor, the Vicar General, two Episcopal Vicars, the Auxiliary Bishop as well as the Ordinary. The Presbyteral Council is made up of 12 priests in the diocese and is the primary priestly advisory body to Bishop Barnes.

The day was lead by Father John Roche, SDB, and Andrew Coffey who shared their considerable experience and insight in youth ministry. The day began with a powerful prayer that called participants to “make the voice of the young heard.” It was accompanied by moving photographs of young people and the challenges they face all over the world.

Fr. Roche and Coffey offered an assessment of today’s youth, particularly in light of post modernism and other characteristics of the age. Among the observations given were,

- The present generation is largely devoid of leaders, teachers and mentors
- The desire to connect is strong, as evidenced by social networking virtual relationships
- The Church is lacking in moral



and teaching authority

- Spiritual hunger and the search for meaning is at an all-time high

“He was very insightful in looking at the real needs of youth and the real problems that youth face,” said Jeanette Arnquist, Curia member and director of the diocesan Ministry of Life, Dignity and Justice, of Fr. Roche. “And he zeroed in on our primary Christian value – love.”

Members of the Curia and Presbyteral Council then engaged in sharing about the observations presented.

Next, Fr. Roche expertly wove a history and description of St. John Bosco together with observations on youth made by Bishop Barnes in his Pastoral Letter on Youth and video message to youth released last Summer.

“St. John Bosco had a great love for youth and his principle of keeping a spiritual focus on youth is important,” said Father Leonard De Pasquale, I.M.C., administrator of St. Bernadine parish in San

Bernardino and a member of the Presbyteral Council.

A key common thread in St. John Bosco’s teaching and Bishop Barnes pastoral letter highlighted by Fr. Roche was the need for the Church to reach out to youth who are disaffected and most at risk of taking a path away from God.

“There are some extreme feelings of isolation and loneliness with our young people,” noted Fr. De Pasquale. “We have to work with that.”

Father John Vieira, Presbyteral Council member and pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton parish in Ontario, said there is a need for the Church to accompany youth in their questions and struggles rather than simply prescribe Church teachings.

“It’s a call to put ourselves on their level,” Fr. Vieira said. “We have to listen to the kids and see where they are coming from first and then we can enlighten them.”

At the conclusion of the day Fr. Roche and Coffee presented Bishop Barnes with sculpture of St. John Bosco in honor of the occasion.

John Andrews is the Director of Communications for the San Bernardino Diocese.

Related Links:

[Year for Youth Video](#)

[SB Diocese Year for Youth Website](#)

The De Sales Hall Project Is On The Move

By Br. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

In the last couple of weeks, Vincor Construction Company had the sub-contractors working on the existing electrical and plumbing to identify what needs to be changed, repaired or added. The communication sub-contractor was on the site to determine how to pull the internet cables, the phone cables and the security lines into particular locations.

The new Los Angeles County Unified Building Code approved windows were ordered and the sub-contractor is scheduled to remove the old windows and install the new ones during the week of March 26, 2012.

Every week during the construction period, the contractor, the architect and the Province's representative meet to review the work that has been done, the construction schedule, any change orders, to answer questions from the participants and hear any suggestions for improvements, e.g. making sure that the wall that separated the community room from the handicap bedroom is sound proofed. The material to be considered is 3/8th inch thick acoustic board panels.

According to the construction schedule, the digging of the elevator pit will commence around the beginning of March, weather permitting.

Southern California Edison is ready to remove the old electrical service and install a new service. SCE will have to wait until the old building is removed before installing the new serve.



The ceiling in the future 3rd floor community room will be removed for insulation and to install new light fixtures and social communication wiring.



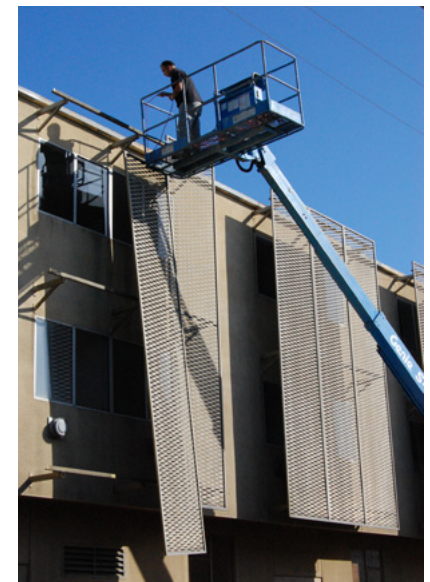
This Chapel wall needs to be upgraded to a 1 hour fire wall because the area on the other side of this wall is a bedroom.



The old "Bro. Jack's bicycle shop", weight room, music room, rec room, etc.



Interior walls are opened for new electrical wiring or panel, and to remove old plumbing and conduit pipes.



Removing the aluminum screens

Lenten Journey Resource for Youth DON BOSCO NET

<http://donbosconet.tumblr.com/>



Welcome to Don Bosco Net where young people can connect with God, self and others, guided by the charism

and family of St. John Bosco!

The means to connect will take many forms. This week we enter the season of Lent, a time to renew your life with God and others. At Don Bosco Net, you will find food for your journey to Easter, starting with Jesus and his teachings in sacred scripture. On Saturdays or eves of feast days, you will find posted the gospel passage for the next Sunday or feast day celebrated by Catholics around the world. In subsequent posts you will find contributions by young people on what this scripture means to them, relating it to life through personal reflections, prayers, short movies, action tips and links that can deepen your reflection as a follower of Christ. On Fridays you will always find a Salesian Good Night to encourage your journey of faith.

At Don Bosco Net there is a Salesian family to welcome you as

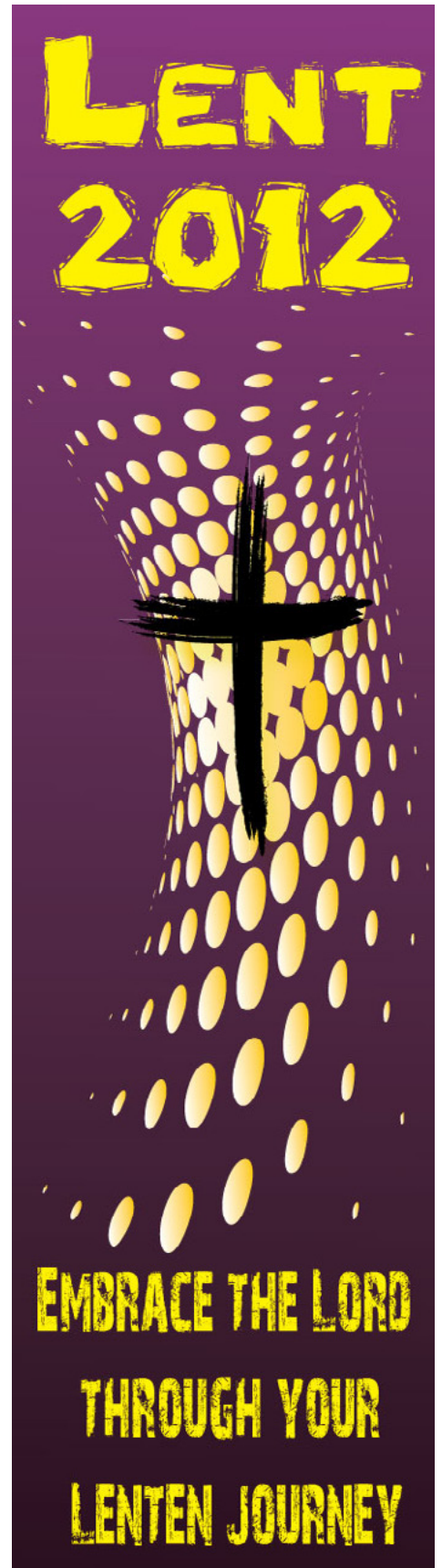
Don Bosco himself does:
It is enough that you are young for me to love you.” - Don Bosco

Excerpts from Youth Prayers written by DBTI students

+ I am a shepherd in your herd, Lord, for I serve You through my actions and my faith. Acting in your way is my job on this beloved earth, just as our Savior was told to do. For He didn't need a crowd to cheer for Him, nor did He act in your way for attention. We all need to do the same, help others without letting your other neighbor know. Not doing so will give You and me false service. My brother and sisters do not need to know what I do for others, just the fact that I'm here to love, care, and serve with them.

+ We all can serve You, God, without measure; the only barrier we must cross is the fear of showing our light. Lord, show us how to shine as our Savior did, for He did it to show others there is true happiness in God's Kingdom. Remind us to do something good, not to get noticed at that moment, but to set an example for someone else and because shining as God wanted you to do is contagious for others.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Original Design and Concept By
Giovanni Fernandez

Salesian Youth Animator Workshops

On February 18-19, youth leaders gathered at St. John Bosco High School for a workshop on *Foundations in Evangelization and Catechesis* led by Br. Al Vu, the Province Delegate for Youth Ministry. This workshop was the second weekend in the Youth Animators Workshop Series, a formation program for high school seniors and young adults who animate youth ministry programs in parish, youth center, and school settings. It equips animators with the knowledge, skills, practical tools and techniques needed for creative and comprehensive ministry with youth based on the Salesian youth pastoral model. The Youth Animators Workshop Series includes four courses offered in a weekend format over a two-year period. The aim of the program is to promote personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth.



The same weekend will be offered March 3-4 at Don Bosco Hall in Berkeley. For more information and registration contact the Salesian Youth Ministry Office at (626) 280-2574.

Provincial Announcement

With the approval of the Board of Directors

Bro. Tom Mass, SDB

is appointed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

of the Los Angeles Salesian Boys and Girls Club

Salesian Family Reminder

Please invite vocation prospects to attend the

Discernment Weekend

March 1-4

Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley

A chance to explore and reflect on God's call in their lives.

For questions and registrations, please contact:

Fr. Chinh Nguyen

phone: (626) 688-2939

email: chinniesdb@gmail.com.

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.

Youth Ministry

Hello,

Fr. Rafael Borges will be with us the weekend of March 3-4, 2012. The Salesian Family at St. Dominic Savio prepared this encounter with him. All interested are invited to share this weekend with us.

-Fr. Avelino Lorenzo

St. Dominic Savio Church

A Salesian Parish Today!

Presenter: Fr. Rafael Borges SDB

Bio: Fr. Rafael Borges works in Rome as part of the Salesian Youth Ministry Council for the Salesian Congregation. Part of his work is to accompany the youth ministry delegates in the American Continent. Fr. Rafael also has been teaching about St. John Bosco in the continent for over 10 years. He has facilitated the first Pastors meeting in the Inter-American region. He has a great knowledge in what it means to be a Salesian Parish.

Saturday March 3, 2012

Morning

9:00 - 12:00

What is a Salesian Parish - Principles and Guidance

Objective: to learn what it really means to be a Salesian Parish and how every decision that we make should be for the good of our mission.

Groups invited: Parish Council, Finance Committee, Youth Ministry Council

Night

7:00 - 9:00

Salesian Youth Spirituality

Objective: to learn what the Salesian Youth Spirituality really means and how we can use it in our everyday life.

Groups invited: Youth Ministry

Sunday March 4, 2012

Afternoon

1:00 - 2:30

Mass by Fr. Rafael Borges

3:00 - 5:00

Salesian Family Spirit in Parish Settings

Objective: To learn of the involvement of the Salesian Family in a Parish and how Don Bosco saw his collaborators.

Groups invited: All members of the Salesian Family and any other groups in the parish.

7:00 - 9:00

Youth Ministry Presentation

Objective: To share what our youth ministry is doing and to get any feedback from Fr. Rafael.

Groups invited: Youth Ministry Core Team



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.