



INTOUCH

Mar 15
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



Born November 12, 1923
Professed September 8, 1945
Ordained May 27, 1954
Died March 6, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

On March 6 our province lost another confrere when **Fr. Paul Caporali, SDB**, at the age of 88, breathed his last, apparent victim of a heart attack while awaiting an opinion from the City of Hope as to whether surgery for his colon cancer was advisable. May he rest in heaven's peace, where no second opinions are necessary, where all are healthy in mind and heart, and where the only thing to await is the resurrection of the body.

Not even ten years old, little Paolino began playing in the Salesian Oratory near his home in Terni, Italy. For higher studies he entered the field of metallurgy, a new field for Italy made increasingly important due to the demands of World War II. In fact he and another student were sent to Milan to work in a weapons factory with their technological background and specialized preparation.

Then he fell in love and was engaged to be married. But in one single day he lost his engaged fiancée, his mother and other family members to the bombing raids. Rather than curse the day, he transformed that pain into a vocation, understanding that he was meant to stay with Don Bosco and become a priest. After novitiate, first profession

and philosophical studies, he did two years of practical training in that same Oratory where his vocation began. Upon volunteering for the missions he was sent to our province! First stop, Richmond, to do a third year of practical training and to learn English. After four years of theology in Aptos he was ordained a priest in 1954, the Marian Year. "I understand," he wrote, "how my having been engaged to marry might be useful in helping young people with their relationships and problems. My life in the Oratorio could be somewhat of an asset in dealing with young people as well . . . but why did I have to spend four years in college studying metallurgy if I was to become a priest?"

He was convinced that Mary had a hand in this too, because with Father Felix Penna he co-founded the newest school in our province, Don Bosco Technical Institute. He remained there a total of 27 years, holding various positions, including chairman of the metallurgy department, of course, and eventually dean of technology. After a six year period as director next door, at St. Joseph's Renewal Center, he returned to the Tech once again, this time as development director. In that capacity he worked hard to maintain some of the personal contacts he and Fr. Penna had made with the early captains of industry. He even asked me to see about returning him to the Tech as president!

After leaving the Tech in 1987 he spent 12 years as associate pastor at St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, and then from 1999 until his death last week once again at St. Joseph's, an assignment which he took as a special charge to make the Marian grotto there a center for Marian spirituality in the province and a center from which to spread devotion to Mary. He wrote his life's story in a little booklet which he entitled: "And Now You'll Be My

Mom . . . A Marian Story." He really saw all the facts of his life as a Marian story.

Fr. Paul had a joking and childlike character, which made young people feel comfortable with him, regaling them with silly magic tricks, even sillier jokes, but always with a kind and winning smile. That everyone knew the punch lines of his jokes never stopped him from telling them. Over and over again. Please pray for Paul's eternal rest. As per R 76 let each community offer a Mass for him. And please pray for more vocations to take his place: Salesian educator, priest for the young, devoted son of Mary.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

March 2012

- 9-19 Visitation: Berkeley
- 15 Board Meeting, Los Angeles Salesian Boys & Girls Club
- 16 Funeral for Fr. Paul Caporali, St. Dominic Savio
- 17-18 SLIM
- 19 Burial of Fr. Paul Caporali, Richmond
Conclusion of Berkeley Visitation
- 20 Travel Day
- 21 Members Meeting, St. John Bosco High School
- 22-25 Religious Education Congress, Anaheim
- 26-30 Visitation: Provincial Residence, San Francisco
- 29 Chrism Mass: St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Salesian Volunteer Discernment Retreat

By Juan Carlos Montenegro



On March 8-11, 2012, two groups from the Salesian Volunteer Program of the Western United States got together to discern God's call. The first group was composed of current volunteers. They got together after 6 months of mission work in the province to evaluate how the program is helping them to grow. These 8 young adults really had a meaningful reflection about God's presence in their mission. The second group was composed of possible future volunteers. They got together

to discern the possibility of serving God for one year. At one point these two groups got together to talk to each other, which was a perfect experience of peer-to-peer evangelization.

From this discernment retreat 6 young adults have committed themselves to serve God for one year. Five will start their process to become Domestic Volunteers and one will start her process to become an International Volunteer.

Pray for Our Sick

Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB
RECTOR MAJOR
in treatment for liver infection

Bro. Alfred Flatoff, SDB (SUE)
in recovery from surgery for broken neck

May They Rest in Peace



Matta Trần Thị Ca
buried March 3, 2012
Great aunt of novice Duoc Le

Ann Gibbs
March 12, 2012
Salesian Cooperator
Worked thirty years at DBTI

Special Greetings from the Rector Major and a Request for Prayer

Dear Fr. Tim:

Thank you for your greetings and the prayers of the confreres for my health. In this first stage of treatment they are trying to reduce the level of iron in the liver. Then we will begin with a course of interferon therapy. Pray, and invite the confreres to pray, that if it be his will, the Lord grant me the necessary health, my usual enthusiasm, and holiness of life to continue serving the Congregation.

With an embrace and a memento in my Mass.

Have a good Sunday!

P. Pascual Chávez V., SDB



"Listen to him, love him, obey him, pray for him as you have prayed for me."

- Don Bosco

A Tribute To Fr. Paul Caporali, SDB

By Ignacio (Nacho) Corrales DBTI, Dr. '67

Forty-nine years ago my parents and I met Fr. Paul Caporali during my Don Bosco Technical Institute admission interview. To everyone's surprise, I had passed the DBTI entrance exam.



I remember the long eight-hour day of testing. The four of us met in the lobby and continued on to the conference room. Fr. Paul

explained to us the results of my tests and stated that for my testing aptitude, he was accepting me into the Photolithography Technology. He explained this technology and I knew exactly what this shop would involve. My father's 2 best friends owned their own print shops. As hard working small businessmen, they worked with their hands.

To Fr. Paul's amazement, I stood up and told Fr. Paul that this was not what I would like to pursue there at the Tech. Since I had also passed the Salesian High School exam, and if that was what Bosco Tech had to offer me, then I would go to Salesian High instead. Fr. Paul then patiently asked me which technology I would prefer to take. I thought for a moment, then I asked Fr. Paul to please touch my father's hands and tell me what he felt. He answered that he felt strong, calloused hands.

See my father was a farmer all his life, after his father died at my father's age of 10 in Los Angeles. Thru greed he lost his farm when I was one year old and our family returned to Los Angeles. All my father knew was to work with his hands (which he taught me). However, he and my mom had instilled in me that instead of just working with my hands, I should work from my mind. Because of this I was determined not to have calloused hands from my livelihood.

I told this all to Fr. Paul. He then asked me again, which technology would I prefer to take there at Bosco Tech? I told him Drafting. I wanted to work in the engineering field, a nice clean job, no callouses like like my dad.

To my amazement, Fr. Paul said, "If you have a strong commitment, goal and vision, then YOU'RE IN." Wow, someone listened to me. I was so happy, I

couldn't believe I was really going to Bosco Tech in September and taking my choice of technology. I worked hard and studied most nights until midnight. Four years later I graduated and then continued my studies.

Fr. Paul showed me who St. John Bosco was, and how he listens to and works with the youth. During my time at Bosco Tech, I visited

Fluor Corporation many times on field trips. I was told that Fluor was the best engineering company for employment. When I went looking for a full time job, I went to Fluor and was offered a job there. That was over 40 years ago and I'm still here.

I will always love and remember Fr. Paul for his understanding and listening to a young boy, helping him to reach his goal. Fr. Paul was the first (but not the last) to show me who St. John Bosco is and what a Salesian is. Because of him, I, too, continue to serve the youth in many ways at the Tech and in society.

I know that Fr. Paul is in heaven with our Lord and with St. John Bosco (and my parents and sister). He served his life as an example of St. John Bosco and he passed it on to many of us. He was a true Salesian.

St. John Bosco, prays for us.

RIP Jose Meza: Loyal Cooperator

By Sheila Kun



Jose Meza, a long time Cooperator of the Cooperadoras De Don Bosco, formed 40 years ago, returned to the Lord on March 1, 2012, after a short illness. Jose belonged to this group of Spanish speaking Catholics organized under a Salesian priest from South America.

Jose and his wife Nelly united with the Cooperators at St. Joseph's Salesian Youth Renewal Center eight years ago and continued their work for the poor. For years they gathered food and household items for the children in Rosarito, Mexico.

Jose, retired as a Los Angeles City employee in the Carpentry Division in 1998 and was a supporter of all our Salesian functions at St. Joseph, Rosemead. One of Jose's favorite events was helping to host the Salesian Hospitality lunch at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress in Anaheim. We will miss Jose this year at the Congress.

For many of us, Jose will be remembered as a loyal Cooperator. To Nelly, he was "The Family Man, 100%." Their home is the hub of all the family activities for their 5 children, 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2009. Their devotion to each other is a good testimony of their faith and their strong Catholic up-bringing.

The Funeral Mass will be held at St. Anthony Parish in Rosemead on Thursday, March 8, 2012, at 10 a.m. Their love of the under-served is evident by Nelly's request: in lieu of flowers, all donations will be made to the Monasterio La Asuncion Adoratrices del Santisimo Sacramento - a Catholic order of nuns in Rosarito, Mexico. The nuns received collected goods from the Meza every month to serve those in need. Please make checks payable to: Nelly Meza, 7674 Sunside Dr., Rosemead, 91770. (Note: it is difficult for the nuns to cash American checks).

We will keep the Meza Family in our prayers. Thank you, Jose, for your friendship and for sharing all the fun activities we had as Cooperators.



Jose Meza helps to serve lunch at RE Congress



Religious Education Congress 2012

SALESIAN BOOTH

Exhibit Hall - 609, 611

"Salesians Journeying with the Young to Holiness"

SALESIAN HOSPITALITY ROOM

Anaheim Marriot

(new location)

700 West Convention Way

Come to Salesian Booth for the Room Number

PASCUA JUVENIL 2012



EASTER YOUTH ENCOUNTER

El Movimiento Juvenil Salesiano de la parroquia Santa María invita a todos los jóvenes:

A vivir un Triduo Pascual lleno de alegría y de acompañamiento en la Fe, el 5-8 de Abril.

Empezaremos el Jueves Santo y Terminaremos con el Domingo de Pascua.

Tendremos: juegos, espiritualidad y celebraciones

Te esperamos el Jueves Santo a las 5pm

St. Mary's Salesian Youth Movement invites you!

To come and experience the Paschal Triduum in a youthful way! April 5-8

We will start on Holy Thursday and will end with Easter Sunday.

There will be games, spirituality and celebration.

Come and join us on Holy Thursday at 5pm.