USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

The provincial council and I have concluded our week of prayer and planning. Allow me to give a summary of what we experienced. As they did last year, some wonderful Salesian friends generously lent us their beautiful Lake Arrowhead vacation home.

The first full day we dedicated to reflection and thought. In the morning we reviewed pages from our Rule of Life and the Provincial's Handbook. This helped us refresh our understanding of our identities and roles as provincial and council. In the afternoon we passed at least two hours delving into the most recent letter of our Rector Major convoking the next General Chapter. This will be the 27th General Chapter, to be held in Rome beginning in February of 2014. His stirring and profound letter is an invitation, even before the General Chapter begins to study this theme. for all of us to become "Witnesses of the Radical Approach of the Gospel." Already available at sdb.org, the letter (AGC #413) should be arriving at the communities these days in hard copy.

After this first day of reflection and challenge, a sort of mini retreat for us, we spent two days on our own planning as provincial and council for the coming year, concentrating on the period before us until we receive the results of our 2013 Extraordinary Visitation. What we did was to take our Province Organic Plan (POP) and to isolate those lines of action that were designated to the provincial

and his council. You recall that for each of the province's five priorities expressed in the POP, there are a number a strategies and lines of actions. We then unfolded those lines of action into some practical and measurable TACTICS for me and the council to take. My hope is to publish them very soon. In this way we should be able to move our Organic Plan closer to lived reality.

Then for the last full day we spent the morning on an agenda of ordinary province business (personnel issues, updates, planning summer and fall meetings and initiatives, etc.). In the afternoon we enjoyed a well deserved break into the early evening. We concluded on Saturday morning with a penetrating evaluation and clean up of the house. I for one very much enjoyed a trip to our old Camp Arrowbear, a trip down memory lane for most, but none more so than for Joe Farias, who was an 8 year old camper there!

As far as housekeeping, we took turns cooking (not me) and cleaning, leading prayers and Eucharist. No business was scheduled in the evenings, so we enjoyed time together relaxing, watching movies, etc. We all felt it really was a community building week.

When you receive this issue of InTouch I will be arriving in Jerusalem for Chuyen Nguyen's ordination as deacon. How blessed our province is with his and Thien's recent reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Here in the Holy City I will certainly be remembering their vocations in prayer, as well as praying for more vocations, and especially remembering each and every one of you in the land where Jesus first lived and walked on earth. Shalom!

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

June 2012

- 4-13 Jerusalem, Ordination of Deacon Chuyen Nguyen and Personal Days
- 14 Board Meeting, Don Bosco Technical Institute (AM)

Board Meeting, Salesian Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles (PM)

- 15-17 Office Days
- 18-22 Salesian Education Seminar (SES), Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley

May They Rest In Peace

DAVID McCORMICK

May 28, 2012

Aged 69

brother of Fr. Richard McCormick, SDB (SUE)



PHILIP SANDFORD

May 27, 2012

uncle of Novice Sean Bryan

Provincial Announcement

FURTHER PASTORAL ASSIGNMENT

Fr. Aloysius J. Pestun, SDB

St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower

Celebrating in Jerusalem



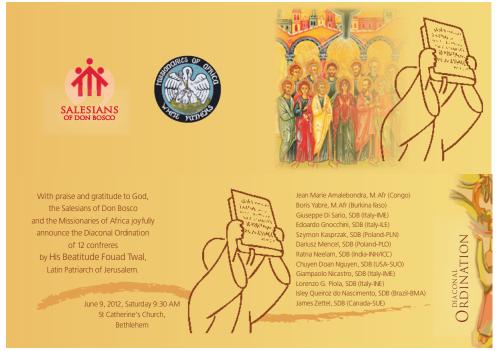
Dear Fr. Tim,

On your birthday you are invited to open the birthday web card prepared with love for you by your Salesian family. No peeking till Friday!

OPEN HERE

(*With a whisper...*Salesian family, you can still enter the link and leave your greeting. Keep in mind Jerusalem time is seven hours ahead of us!)

We are with you in spirit, Br. Chuyen!



Provincial Council Week Photos









St. Francis High School Graduation

By Judy Wilber Alvarez



On Saturday, June 2, 2012, forty-one seniors graduated from St. Francis Central Coast

Catholic High School, bidding farewell to their unique educational home and family, "an expression of the educational mission of the Catholic Church in the Monterey Diocese and the teaching mission of the Salesians of St. John Bosco."

Gabi Pezzini offered the valedictory address where she spoke of the value of persistence, of never giving up. She recalled a classmate's epic basketball shot, when, with one second remaining, he sunk a three-pointer from center court to tie the game and put it into overtime. "We remember 'The Shot' for the meaning behind it, the weeks and years of training, the hopes and

passions of the whole team and the audience, the sheer strength of effort and will. The Shot showed that, to the last second, that team would never give up. And so, too, with this class; and this community."

She described her class as having great heart, most evident in them as a community. "We are the smallest of the four classes here: we are close-knit and we're optimistic. When we arrived here as freshmen, the American economy had just taken a nosedive; there were less than 50 of us. Yet we have stuck together through these years, through rallies, sports, the growth of our arts and drama programs, Battle for the Paddle, and, need I mention, finals. We are all friends, accepting of one another, challenging and supporting each other. The unity we have garnered, the support we have shown one another, has helped us go about our high school experience in our own, unique way."

Near the end of her speech she returned to the image of the "The Shot."

"Remember that Will's shot, amazing as it was, did not end the game. There was still work to be done in overtime. So too, with us. We have graduated, we have pushed ourselves to reach this goal, and it is amazing. Yet there is still work to be done. We enter into adulthood with the game unfinished, still time on the clock. We have had a great start, and now we have the responsibility to continue gracefully, making use of all our talents, and our many blessings.

In closing she offered heartfelt thanks to parents, teachers and the whole St. Francis Community, including the Salesians, "who instilled in us strong faith and the desire to love and accept everyone, in the true image of Don Bosco. And thanks, of course, to our Lord, Jesus Christ, whom we have come to know and love deeply and fervently in our time at St Francis."



The St. Francis Central Coast Catholic High School Class of 2012 poses on the steps of Piazza Zanella



Gabi Pezzini and her father John. Gabi will attend Princeton University next fall.

Fr. Francisco & Tardeada Team on his birthday.



Our Youth Folklorico



Some parishioners having a good time



Frs. Lorenzo & Francisco doing some comedy with famous

Humberto Luna

St. Mary's Spring Tardeada

By Gaby Gordillo

For the past two weeks, St. Mary's has not stopped celebrating and that is because we just have so many reasons to do so! The celebrations began with our Confirmation Class 2012, then our pastor's birthday, and last night the biggest celebration of all, our Spring Tardeada 2012.

For entertainment we brought two famous groups in our Hispanic community, "La Sonora Santanera," which was big in the 50's, and "La Sonora Dinamita," which was big in the 80's & 90's. We also had a youth band "Los Hijos de su Madre" that had all of the young adults dancing Rock en Español. These groups usually bring thousands of people and we were lucky to have them animate all 2000+ people at our Tardeada. Anyhow, images speak louder than words, so here they are and you're welcome to join our next Tardeada!



Famous Sonora Santanera



Our Spring Queen 2012



The dance just beginning



Famous Sonora Dinamita



The dance at its best!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



BOSCO TECH SWEEPS TOP SPOTS IN DESIGN CONTEST

The 2012 Building Industry Association (BIA) Architectural Design and Model Building Contest, held on May 16, was a success for Bosco Tech! Several seniors entered their work in the contest's Residential Computer Aided Design (CAD) category and brought home five of six available awards.

Drawings from Bosco Tech students in the Creativity subcategory garnered first place for **Christopher Hasbun** (Design Technology). **Alex Ruiz** (Construction Technology) took second place and **Darryl Anas** (Design) rounded out a sweep with a third-place win.

In Technical Merit, **Christopher Hasbun** once again earned a first place trophy and **Alex Ruiz** brought home the third place award. All winners also earned cash prizes of \$100 to \$250 with their awards. A job well done to all the students who entered their work and congratulations to all of our winners!



CITY OF ROSEMEAD HONORS BOSCO TECH STUDENTS



The Rosemead City Council recognized the students of Bosco Tech at their May 22 meeting. The council members (including Bosco Tech alumnus Bill Alarcon) thanked the students for their exemplary community service efforts.

Specifically, the city recognized Bosco students involved in the One City tutoring program, Tiny Tots sports program, campus clean-up days at Garvey Intermediate School, and the Bosco Tech student-produced pedestrian safety video to instruct local children (see story below.)

A video of the meeting can be seen on the City's website (http://www.cityofrosemead.org/index.aspx?page=310).

MEDIA ARTS STUDENTS PRODUCE PUBLIC SAFETY FILM

Because the state has reduced crossing guard funding, the City of Rosemead asked Bosco Tech's MAT students to produce an educational video that will teach children and adults about pedestrian safety. Seniors **Pablo de la Hoya**, **Nathan Morales** and **Roderick 'Justin' Quebral** worked with Department Chair Peter Romero to create a video that will be used throughout the Rosemead school district and, eventually, statewide.

The video was premiered at a recent Rosemead City Council meeting, where the Council honored Bosco Tech students for their community outreach efforts.



Good News This Week ...

By Bro. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

As you might remember from last week's report, Karcher Interior Systems specified that a 2 hour rating was necessary for the first floor and the less expensive way to implement this requirement was to install a sprinkling system.

With the help of Mr. Chris Christopoulos, Assistant Director, City of Bellflower Building and Safety Department, the 2 hour rating will not be necessary because the Fire Department has agreed to allow the one hour separation to remain as per the original 1966 Unified Building Code. The 1966 Code was used to design the existing building. But there are two caveats:

(a) that there will be no change in the use of the floor space from the original architectural plans and (b) that we maintain the "accessory occupancies" at 10% maximum per floor. The second caveat requires the community room on the third floor to be reduced by one hundred square feet. Marlene Ramirez, the Architect with Barrio Planners, is working to implement that requirement.

The building will not need a sprinkling system.

Our new Building Inspector, Mr. Jeff Ganaway, signed off on the second and third floors, allowing the carpenters to insulate the rooms and hang gypsum board.

SCE came out and disconnected the existing meter. Demolition will now proceed.

Eight more yards of concrete were poured, finishing the floor of the elevator pit, the two AC platforms and the concrete around the canopy columns.

Arcadia Glass Company installed half the windows with screens on the north side of the building. They look very good. The glazers finished sealing the windows on the south by installing mineral wool

installation inbetween the two window frames and then closing the space with an aluminum panel.



Formed AC pad ready for concrete



Window glazer install installation and aluminum panel.



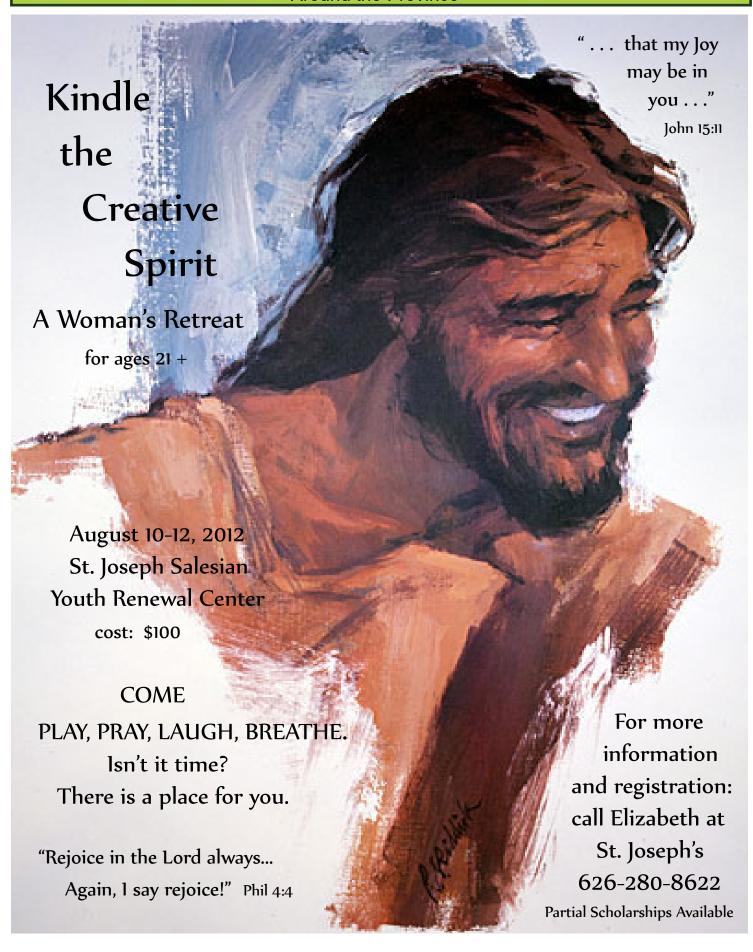
Concrete finisher spreads concrete - elevator pit



Pouring concrete around the canopy columns



Pouring the concrete elevator pit floor



Around the Salesian World

The 2013 Strenna - Presentation



"Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice"
(Phil 4:4)
Like Don Bosco the educator,
we offer young people the
Gospel of joy
through a pedagogy of kindness

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

After focusing attention on the history of Don Bosco and having sought to come to a better understanding of his life as a whole, marked by a predilection for the young, the 2013 Strenna aims to come to a better understanding of what he proposed in educational terms. In practice we would like to get closer to Don Bosco the educator. So it is a case of understanding and updating the Preventive System.

In this task, too, our approach is not just an intellectual one. A deeper study of Salesian pedagogy is certainly necessary, on the one hand, so that it can be updated according to the sensitivity and demands of our time. Today, in fact, the social, economic, cultural, political, and religious contexts in which we find ourselves living out our vocation and carrying out the Salesian mission have altered profoundly. On the other hand, to be faithful to our Father's charism, it is equally necessary to make the content and approach of what he offered in

educational and pastoral terms our own. In the context of today's society, we are called to be holy educators as he was, giving our lives as he did, working with and for the young.

REDISCOVERING THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

In rethinking Don Bosco's pedagogical experience, we are called to give it life faithfully again today. For a correct updating of the Preventive System today, more than thinking straight off of programs or of formulas, or of repeating generic "slogans" to fit all seasons, our efforts instead should be to gain a historical appreciation of Don Bosco's approach. In practice this means analyzing how diverse his work was for the young, the populace, the Church, society, religious life, and also how diverse was his way of educating young people at his first festive oratory and the junior seminary at Valdocco, Salesian and non-Salesian clerics, missionaries. One could observe how already in the first oratory at the Pinardi house certain important insights were present that would afterward acquire a deeper value as part of a complex human and Christian synthesis:

- 1. flexible structure, which mediated between Church, urban society, and the youthful bracket of the population;
- 2. respect and appreciation for the popular setting;
 - 3. religion as a basis

for education, following the teaching of Catholic pedagogy that was passed on to him at the Ecclesiastical College (the Convitto);

- 4. the dynamic interplay between religious formation and human development, catechism and education;
- 5. the conviction that education is the essential instrument for enlightening the mind;
- 6. education, like catechesis, developed in all kinds of ways compatible with the limitations of time and resources;
- 7. keeping busy while appreciating free time;
- 8. loving kindness as an educational style, and more generally as a Christian lifestyle.

Once we have a correct understanding of the past, we need to translate the Preventive System's major insights and virtues for today. We need to modernize its principles, concepts, and original guidelines to reinterpret its major underlying ideas and key methodological guidelines both theoretically and practically. And all this needs to be to the advantage of the formation of the "new" youth of the 21st century, called to experience and deal with a vast, totally new range of circumstances and problems in times that have changed decisively, and which the human sciences themselves are now critically reflecting upon. I want to suggest three perspectives in particular, analyzing the first of them at some depth.

Read More

Social Communication

Salesian Bulletin Update

Editors of the Salesian Bulletin Visit L'Osservatore Romano

(Unsigned article in May 20, 2012, edition, p. 7, translated from Italian)

About 9,000,000 copies a year, in 56 editions distributed in 45 nations on six continents, edited in dozens of diverse languages, including most recently Tetum and Kannada for new editions in some Oriental countries—these are the statistics of the Salesian Bulletin, the historic periodical published by Don Bosco's family, collected in view of the international conference of the editors of the publications, organized by the offices of the Salesian Congregation's Communications Department and the Italian edition of the Bulletin and taking place in these days in Rome.

The presence of the Salesian press in the world is steadily increasing. About half of the editions of the periodical are bimonthly, about ten are monthly, while the rest have a lower frequency, between two and three issues a year [sic].

On Saturday morning, May 19, the editors of the various editions of the periodical, accompanied by Fr. Sergio Pellini, general director of Vatican Press-Osservatore Romano Publishers, came to visit our journal. Received by the deputy editor [Carlo DeCicco], they were informed of the updating and the aims that the Pope's daily newspaper is pursuing.

The directors are concerned in particular with the routes toward



New Rochelle, New York -- May 31, 2012 -- The editorial board of the Salesian Bulletin U.S.A. met all day on May 31 at the provincial residence in New Rochelle. Present were the communications delegates of the San Francisco and New Rochelle provinces, Judy Alvarez and Fr. Steven Dumais, respectively; representatives of the FMA San Antonio and Haledon provinces, Sr. Juanita Chavez and Sr. Denise Sickinger; and Fr. Michael Mendl, editor. They reviewed three recent issues, planned two upcoming issues, and discussed topics from the recent worldwide meeting of SB editors in Rome, particularly establishing a SB presence on the Web in the USA.

and the problems linked with the transit of their journals from paper to the world of the Web.

"The intention," Fr. Filberto Gonzalez, the Salesian general councilor for communications, told us as he explained why the editors were visiting the Vatican Press, "is to show the editors the communications system of the Vatican. This will help us face with greater awareness the challenges that still await us."

The most immediate challenge is that of digitizing their magazines [sic]. "It's a project," Fr. Filiberto explained, "that fascinates us but at the same time calls us to a deeper reflection. To go

from paper to digital isn't an easy choice. Fortunately, the experienced in this area that they've already gone through in Brazil, Central America, and Argentina provide us with some useful elements to consider. So we're convinced that the future of communication is digital. But the transition must be come about in such a way as not to throw our readers into confusion. It'll have to be carried out gradually. The objective is also to produce a movement toward a more participatory presence, through social networks, and secondarily, toward adopting more most evolved standards of the semantic Web."

CB

Mission Animation



From May 21st to June 1st a group of young people from Canada and the United States went to Haiti for a missionary immersion experience in Cap-Haitian. On one day they had the opportunity to meet with Archbishop Louis Kébreau, SDB, of Cap-Haitian who has led the Haitian Catholic Church in a unified "one Church response" for the rebuilding and recovery of Haiti. This missionary experience really helped the young people to grow through service and education to the realities of life in Haiti.

Gospel Roads Haiti: A Spiritual Experience

By Bro. Adam Dupré, SDB

The mission trip to Haiti was an extremely moving experience for me, not only emotionally and physically, but most importantly spiritually. Every day we started out with Morning Prayer and Mass. After Mass we watched as the School of Agriculture gathered for their Morning Prayer and the singing of their national anthem. It was a beautiful sight to hear and see. To hear the young

people praying with such beautiful voices was a moving experience for me, even though I could not understand what it is that they were singing. However, I could understand the beauty of what they were singing. It was true and pure.

Some of the most spiritually rich experiences that I had were in my encounters with the young people of the Salesian school in Cap-Haitian. Without being able to speak the language of the Haitian people, either Creole or French, there was a common language by which communication was possible. That language was love. Through the love of God and of neighbor, we were able to understand each other. Through the common language of love, I was able to participate in many activities that the young people enjoyed.

The young people would take me by the hand and lead me to different activities. I would play soccer with them. I would play different games with them that didn't involve a ball. But most of the time they would just take me by the hand and walk me around the playground area. I felt like Don Bosco with his kids in the oratory. I felt a deep love for these boys, and I am pretty sure that they loved me too.

I felt very close to God while I was in Haiti. I saw God very clearly in

the young people. They did not know any of us, yet they loved us so deeply. I felt like one of the men on the road to Emmaus. When the young people were around me, my heart was burning with love and I did not know why. Only after the fact was I able to realize, after some reflection, that I was having a deep encounter with God through His children.

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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

ear friends of the Salesians and Salesian mission,

This time I want to remember the life and memory of a great missionary and Provincial of Brazil-Manaus, Fr. Benjamin Morando, SDB (1943-2012) born in Italy, who has spent 48 years in the Amazon region of Brazil. During my visit of animation to the Province of Manaus, after having accompanied me for two weeks to the five missionary presences in the Amazon jungle of Rio Negro, he unexpectedly passed away on May 5, 2012 due to an embolism.

Meditating on the message of the life of Fr. Benjamin a few weeks after his death, it dawned on me that his death gives us. I found a keyword to summarise his life: "Inculturation".

In fact the mission of Yaurete was nearest to his heart. In 1994 he founded an aspirantate for indigenous vocation. Now we have four native priests in the area and quite a number of young Salesians in formation.

A dear friend of Fr. Benjamin, Dom Edson Damian, Bishop of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Brazil - Amazonas, has shared during the funeral Mass in Manaus May 7, 2012 this testimony:

"Out of his 69 years, Fr. Benjamin has given 48 of it to the mission in the Amazon. He gave all of himself into each of the tasks assigned to him in the missionary Province of the Amazon.



Fr. Benjamin Morando with Fr. Václav Klement

the witness and the dream of a great missionary

But I think it was the Church of Rio Negro, in particular in Yauaretê, where he faced the greatest challenges, where he experienced the happiest and most intense years of his life. Since Sister Death visited him by surprise, he had no time to write his memoirs, although he left a will written with his heart and feet. St. Augustine tells us that "it is our feelings that move our feet."

"His last work was in accompanying Fr. Václav Klement, Councillor for the Salesian Missions. Together they visited the five presences scattered throughout the vast Amazon of Rio Negro. The mission of Yuaretê is the furthest of all. I intentionally made my visit to coincide with the celebrations and festivities of the Week of Indigenous Peoples. Here Fr. Benjamin also presided in what would be his last Eucharist.

"I spoke with Fr. Benjamin when he went to São Gabriel, one day before returning to Manaus with Fr. Václav, just four days later we would leave us. He described with enthusiasm the vitality of indigenous peoples of Yauaretê: the organization of communities, the beauty of the dances, the work of lay leaders, the Salesian vocations for the next ordination. He whispered to me that he planned to increase the mission in Rio Negro. Finally he told me: "An inculturated evangelization will be realized only when we have more vocations and when indigenous missionaries in this region will remain here."

We have lost a Salesian but we have gained an intercessor in heaven.

The holiness of Salesian missionaries is passed on through the path of inculturation!

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB Councillor for the Missions

Mission Animation

I strive to live, deepen and hand on the charism of Don Bosco in Bangladesh



y first contact with the missions began when I joined the missionary group in the Theologate in Krakow. Right during our first meeting I was immediately captivated by the Congregation's missionary activity. After my ordination, Fr. Provincial sent me to work in a Salesian school in Świętochłowice. In addition to the various responsibilities of the school I was also the animator of the Akwaba Missionary Volunteers, this is a volunteer branch of the SWM Krakow. I was involved with a group of young people who were preparing a "holiday camp" for children in Ghana (Africa). Thanks to this decisive experience my desire to be a missionary grew deeper. I lived and experienced within me great joy. I realised that the smile of a child from the slums is much more valuable than many things. I saw that the world really needs preachers of the Gospel and witnesses of Christ. This experience led to my resolve to volunteer to be a missionary. I was sent by the Recto Major to

the newly started Salesian presence in Bangladesh

In 2010, before leaving, I had the opportunity to participate in the Course for New Missionaries in Rome and Turin. During that one month the possibility to meet other missionaries and listen to lectures and experiences in a friendly atmosphere helped me to learn the ropes of being a missionary. Yet, it was only when I arrived in Bangladesh that I really understood the usefulness of what we learnt during the course.

I am deeply indebted to God for calling me to be a Salesian priest. Don Bosco continues his work through us Salesians today through the Preventive System. As a missionary in Bangladesh,

where the majority, are Muslims, I consider myself fortunate to be able to strive to live, deepen and hand on this precious legacy of Don Bosco in a country where the Salesian presence is just 6 years old. I seek to practice the Preventive System in my ordinary daily missionary activity and in a concrete way in my dealings with the hostel boys, with children in the Oratory and with the people at large in the newly opened mission of Lokhikul.

Despite the fact that Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and beset with many problems, I love this place and its people. Meeting the local people is something I look forward to every-day.

Fr. Paweł Kociolek

Polish, missionary in Bangladesh



15th June 2012 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS



Salesian Missionary Intention

EUROPA - For Young Christians in Poland

That young believers in Poland, confiding their daily life to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may grow in being true witnesses of the Christian life in Europe.

The youthful vitality of the four Provinces in Poland is a great resource for the new evangelisation of the European continent. We pray that our confreres in Poland may know how to journey with young people to help them develop a deep and active faith in today's multicultural and multireligious society.



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