



Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

At the end of June three members of our provincial council will complete three year terms of office: Fr. Thomas Prendiville, Fr. Gael Sullivan, and Bro. Al Vu. I wish now to announce the following appointments to our provincial council made by the Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez, for the three year period of 2012 to 2015:

- **Fr. Thomas Prendiville**, vice provincial
- **Fr. Nicholas Reina**, provincial councilor and delegate for formation
- **Br. Alphonse Vu**, provincial councilor and delegate for youth ministry.

First of all let me offer my thanks and those, I'm sure, of the whole province to **Fr. Gael Sullivan**, who completes three years as provincial councilor and delegate for formation. His many accomplishments include arranging for the return of the joint provincial novitiate to Rosemead and all the work that entailed. In addition Gael has worked hard on renewing our formation documents and programs to bring them more in line with those of the Congregation's *Ratio*. Personally I want to thank Gael for his wise and articulate counsel to me and to the rest of the members of our council at our meetings. Now our new presence at St. Luke's Parish in Stockton will benefit from Fr. Gael Sullivan's full time ministry there as director and pastor. And to **Fr. Nick Reina** a warm welcome back with gratitude to provincial

leadership! As our provincial from 1997 to 2003, Nick has an intimate knowledge of the province which I will value highly on the council. As delegate for formation I am sure that he will continue the good work Gael has been doing and make further progress. No stranger to formation, Nick has been serving as formation director to our young men in practical training at Richmond.

Fr. Tom Prendiville will continue as vice provincial and secretary. I truly do consider him my first collaborator in the animation and government of our province family and I thank him for his availability and readiness to continue serving the province in this capacity. We as a province, and I personally, hold Tom in the highest regard. He could easily be retiring now and seeking a restful life, but that's not Tom's character, and we are the better for it. Thanks, Tom!

Bro. Al Vu has brought energy, dynamism and creativity to our youth ministry department that we should all be proud of. At the national level Al has helped to bring the Salesian method and spirituality more to the attention of youth ministers in the US. He has brought the province's programs to the attention of our InterAmerica Region and become an important contributor to the region's youth ministry delegate meetings. On the council his input is incisive, forward looking, and deeply Salesian. Thank you, Al!

And to all the confreres who participated in the consultation process I offer my thanks too. Together now we move forward to giving greater quality to all our provincial programs in favor of the young.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

March 2012

- 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
- 30 Members Meeting, Salesian High, Richmond
- 31 Office Day

April 2012

- 1-2 Office Days
- 3 Board Meeting, Salesian Boys & Girls Club, Los Angeles
- 4-5 Office and Personal Days

Pray for Our Sick

Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB
RECTOR MAJOR

in treatment for liver infection

Bro. Bob Hennings, SDB
knee replacement early April

Provincial Announcement

Through his vicar, Fr. Adriano Bregolin, SDB the Rector Major has approved the definitive transfer of

Fr. Joseph Mathew Paradayil, SDB

from the province of Bangalore to the province of San Francisco.

Welcome Joseph Mathew!

Salesian Girls and Boys Make History

By Sr. Mary Greenan, FMA

There is something special in the air at Salesian High School, Richmond, this week. On Saturday, for the first time in the history of the school, BOTH the boys and the girls basketball teams won their Division IV NorCal Championship games. With the wins they travel to Sacramento this coming Friday, March 23, to compete in the Division IV State Championships.

All credit to the students and their coaching staff, headed up by Bill Mellis (boys) and Steve Pezzola (girls) for the incredible hard work they have put in to arrive at this historic moment. The long hours of practice, the administrative quagmire of scheduling, the incessant encouraging and cajoling and even reprimanding have not been in vain. Their efforts and focus on the young people have brought joy to so many this season.



As I reflect on this moment, I remember my somewhat outraged feelings when a local newspaper report commented on “the upstart salesian girls’ team” and their claiming of the North Coast Section crown. In truth, the boys have been the talk of the East Bay all season with great expectations being placed on them. The boys have responded again and again to those expectations, continually being lauded for their athleticism and unselfish play. The girls’

story, instead, is a “Cinderella story.” They are a young team, have never even made it to any playoffs before, and were responsible for many a fluttering heart as they moved through their opposition.

What is important for both the girls and boys is that they maintained throughout the whole season a wonderful spirit among them and with anyone that had anything to do with them. In a time when sport has become a commodity and sports personalities overflowing with too much ego, these young women and men seemed to have learned the value of being together, and being there for one another, including how important it is to depend on each other to achieve excellence. Now, as they move on, whatever the outcome we are proud of them. They are indeed our ‘pride’ of young ladies and gentlemen.



Provincial Council Meeting

March 5-7 2012
Agenda Summary
Location: Villa Maria, Santa Cruz

- 1. Shared Reflections**
Fr. Tim Ploch led reflections on *Church Challenges*, a page of the Closing Address of the Rector Major for the InterAmerica Region visit of October, 2011.
- 2. Personnel**
Several sessions of this meeting were devoted to the topic of Personnel chaired by Fr. Tim Ploch:
a) Assignments for 2012-2013 including Directors;
b) Summer Assignments, 2012;
c) Individual Situations.
- 3. Los Angeles Salesian Youth Club**
Tom Mass informed the Council members of recent changes at the Club sites and plans for the future.
- 4. Directors-Pastors Meeting, April 11**
The Council discussed the schedule and topics for the coming Directors-Pastors meeting which will follow Province Day at Three Rivers.
- 5. Invited Speakers**
Fr. Jose Lucero informed the Council of preparations and final decisions for Province Day, April 9-10, at Three Rivers, Calif.
Fr. Chinh Nguyen discussed the Province Vocation Ministry with expectations for DeSales Hall in 2012-2013. He expressed the need for a deeper vocation culture in the province.
- 6. Tri-Delegation: Youth Ministry, Social Communication, Mission Animation**
Al Vu explained the new format for SYLC, June 18-24, 2012. A discussion followed on the objectives of the Tri-Delegation regarding unity towards the one Salesian mission.
Judy Alvarez, with a handout, recommended a province policy on technology and the internet.
JC Montenegro reported on Volunteers, trip to Haiti, evaluations.
- 7. Finances/Administration**
Al Vu and John Cattalini reviewed the financial status of the Province and continued the discussion of medical insurance. Joseph Farias recounted his week with other province economists at the Pisana.
- 8. Week of Prayer and Planning**
The Council discussed the themes and objectives of their week in early June to prepare for the 2012-2013 year.
- 9. Other topics**
Provincial Visitations; Formation; SNAC West; 2012-2013 Province Calendar.

Thomas Prendiville

Did You Know?

Luis Silva Lopez, Bishop Mora High School alumnus, is an American soccer player who currently plays for Toronto FC in Major League Soccer. At Salesian High he was a two-time All-CIF selection as a midfielder and forward. He went on to play collegiately with the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos. He was named to the All-Big West First Team three times.



Luis Silva was selected 4th overall by Toronto FC in the first round of the 2012 MLS SuperDraft. Silva made his debut for Toronto FC on March 7, 2012, scoring a goal against the Los Angeles Galaxy in the 2011-12 CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinals.

Youth of the Year



Please pass on the word that our own Salesian Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles «Youth of the Year» Dennis Ojogho is the co-winner of the Los Angeles area competition and is on his way to the State Competition. He had an absolutely spectacular speech on Thursday, March 15,

2012, in front of a sell-out crowd at the California Science Center that made all Boys & Girls Club people proud of what he has become through the care of the community, especially our Club. He proudly announced to the gathered crowd that a great moment in his life is his recent acceptance to Harvard... a great accomplishment for him which makes us all proud, too.

God Bless, Br. Tom

Consulado Movil en Watsonville



WATSONVILLE

March 12, 2012

Ana Maria Osorio of the Mexican Consulate in San Jose, California, thanks the entire Valley Church community for hosting yet another successful workshop on the church premises. Ana Maria informs us that 650 persons were attended on Saturday, March 9 to solve all sorts of problems connected with immigration to the United States. Also **Wells Fargo Bank** and **Salud para la Gente** were on hand to render similar help.

We Are on the Move

By Bro. Joe Lockwood

On March 8, 2012, the 7 foot deep elevator pit was excavated. The purpose of the pit is to house the elevator plunger. The plunger allows the elevator car to be raised and lower between floors.

During the week of March 12, the forming carpenters will form and install the reinforcing steel doweling on the bottom (floor) of the pit. Then the concrete will be poured to form a 2 inch concrete floor. While the concrete floor is curing, the carpenters will begin to form the interior walls and install the reinforcing doweling. The interior walls will then be poured and allowed to cure.

During the excavating of the elevator pit, the sewer pipe from the existing residence to the old “Bro. Jack’s Bicycle Shop” was broken. That sewer pipe will be removed and the building demolished, but the sewer pipe that was not broken will remain and a sewer clean out will be installed at the point of breakage.

Meanwhile inside of the main building, all of the old windows have been removed and the openings under the windows for the new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) units have been roughed in.

At the same time this work is being done, the electricians continue to rough in the conduit pipes in all the bedrooms, classroom, library, community room, exercise room, the Director’s office and corridors. About 25% of the electrical work has been completed. It is worth noting that The Unified Building Code requires that all electrical receptacles be 18 inches from the floor. The existing receptacles are 12 inches and need to be raised up the wall by 6 inches.

There is hope that by the third week of March the fire alarm system, including smoke detectors, will be approved. The plans have been already submitted to the Fire Marshall of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Then a permit will be issued to the sub-contractor to begin the installation of the fire protection devices.

As you look at the aerial picture of the elevator pit, you will notice two other excavated holes. The hole on the right is for the metal post to hold the metal canopy for covering the walkway to the patio area. There are another 8 more holes to be excavated for the canopy. The hole on the left is for a sewer clean out.



Excavating the elevator pit – 7 feet deep



Old windows removed and the HVAC opening roughed in



Jaime Flores, framing carpenter, is roughing in the new data room, 3rd floor.



Aerial view of the elevator pit



Roughed in data room

We Made it Before the Rain

By Bro. Joe Lockwood

On Tuesday, March 14, 2012, Fr. Joe Farias, Provincial Economist, visited the construction site and spoke to Alfredo Urbina, Project Manager, Vincor Construction on the progress of the remodeling.

The contractor looked ahead at the weather forecast for Friday and the weekend. The weather man indicated a storm would be moving into the area either Friday or Saturday. With the elevator pit open to the elements, he wanted to pour the elevator footing before the rain.

On Thursday, March 15, 2012 (the ides of March) the contractor poured 10 yards of concrete. But before you could pour any concrete, the steel cage fabricated with number 8 steel dowels had to be in place. The purpose of the steel cage is to reinforce the concrete.

During the fabrication of the steel cage, the owner of the property is required to have an independent building inspector (called deputy inspector) to observe the fabrication of the steel cage making sure that the spacing of steel doweling was according to the structural engineer's specifications and tied

properly, placed in the pit so it will not move during the pouring of the concrete and making sure that there was no loose dirt in the bottom of the pit.

To provide for the elevator plunger, a void area was needed in the middle of the pit. A box was formed for the plunger.

On Thursday morning the contractor was planning to have the building inspector to approve both the steel caging and forms before 10:00 AM and then have the concrete delivered to the site before noon. But it did not work out that way. The City of Bellflower's building inspector was questioning the dowel sizes, the length of steel dowels and he wanted some clarification from the structural engineer. He asked for a few changes and then left the job site saying he would return around 10:00 AM. Once he returned, he inspected the work done and he signed off the elevator footing.

The contractor ordered the concrete and the earliest it could be delivered would be between 1 pm and 2:30 pm.

The cement-trucks arrived at 2:15 pm and the footing was poured.



Fr. Joe Farias speaks with Alfredo Urbina, Job Supervisor, Vincor about the elevator pit construction.



Building Inspector Kris Anderson, City of Bellflower discusses with Deputy Inspector Jose Sigala, Alex DeLeon, Vincor and Alfredo Urbina, Project Supervisor about the dowel sizing for the steel cage.



The men are tying the steel dowels to form the reinforcing cage.



Pouring the concrete while Deputy Inspector Jose Sigala observes the pouring.



Deputy Inspector Jose Sigala takes samples of the concrete to check the slump and mixture of the concrete.



Soil engineer from Geo Environ Soil Engineers test the compaction of the soil at the bottom of the elevator pit.

A Hopeful Retreat

By Van Tran

Who could imagine serving God could actually be “fun” and deeply spiritual at the same time? I was able to encounter this wonderful experience this past weekend, and it made quite an impression on my spiritual journey.

The Annual Salesian Volunteer Retreat took place on March 9-11th at Don Bosco Hall in Berkeley, California. There were seven active volunteers, 12 future volunteers, Juan Carlos Montengro, SV Director, assisted by former volunteer, Miriam Hernandez. A “Dream Team” is what I would like to call this amazing group of individuals. They were youthful, talented, and spiritual. If there’s a place that needed a youth group reform, this is the team that I would call upon.

The retreat started with a solemn gathering at Fr. Larry Byrnes’ Memorial Service at St. Callistus Church, CA. We did not schedule to attend this event, but when a member of our Salesian family passed on, we felt it was only natural to make an appearance to pray for our deceased brother. We then gathered at Don Bosco Hall and was greeted with one of the most cheerful Salesian Directors, Fr. John Roche. He welcomed us into his charming community and we immediately knew we were at “home” with our extended family.

Throughout the retreat, we had ample amount of time to share, to eat, to play, and most of all, to pray. We prayed a great deal, whether it was with members of the community or by ourselves. Aside from prayers and masses, the Salesian Volunteers were able to share their faith journey, communal living, work place, fears and hopes with all the promising future volunteers. My favorite sharing took place when I had the chance to meet with five potential members and talked about my journey in hope of inspiring one of them to join the program.

I truly enjoyed this retreat and would hope to revisit it. It made me realize how important the mission is and that mission is to simply “serve.” I urge anyone who feels any inclination to serve the poor or young people to immediately join the program and make a difference.

Van is currently serving as a Volunteer at St. John Bosco High School.



Popes General Prayer Intentions for March



Contribution of Women.

That the whole world may recognize the contribution of women to the development of society.

Persecuted Christians.

That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.



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

United States– 56th Commission on the Status of Women

(ANS – New York) – Between 27 February and 9 March at the UN Headquarters in New York, there was the 56th Commission on the Status of Women. The Salesian Family participated in and contributed to the work of the Commission which ended on 15 March through interventions co-authored with other NY based NGOs and through the sponsoring of two side events.

This 56th Commission on the status women considered the subject "The empowerment of rural women and their role in eradicating poverty and hunger, development and challenges." Additionally, it examined progress made in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 52nd Commission on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The FMAs and VIDES prepared a side event that was co-sponsored by Salesian Missions that focused on their commitment in defending and promoting the rights of women in Honduras and South Sudan. . Sr. Roxana Juarez, F.M.A. and Ms. Gloria Maricela Aguilar represented Honduras, while Sr. Roberta Tomasi, F.M.A. the Provincial of South Sudan in collaboration with VIDES USA volunteers Natalie Fontenot and Mireya Carrillo presented the work in Sudan.

Three FMA representatives from Rome also contributed input to the event: Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda (Salesian Family Councillor), Sr. Leonor Salazar (Director General of International VIDES) and Sr. Glorina



Panel sponsored by Salesian Missions on HIV among Rural Woman, moderated by Fr. Tom Brennan, SDB

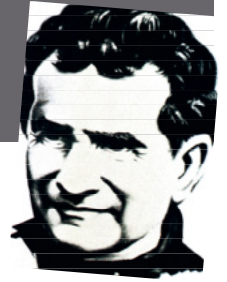
Rita James (Head of the Woman Issues Division). Fr. Tom Brennan, S.D.B., served as moderator of the panel discussion of this good practice.

Salesian Missions, representing the Salesians of Don Bosco, sponsored a side event entitled HIV among Rural Women: Special Considerations in Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support. The presentations were made by experts in mental and physical health care, research and academia and had wide geographical representation from Jamaica to Armenia, as well as Parallel Challenges for Rural Women and Urban Women of Colour Living in Geographically Isolated Areas and Young Rural Women and the Impact of HIV. Fr. Tom Brennan, S.D.B., served as moderator of the panel.

Throughout the discussions, it was pointed out that the contributions of women in societies throughout the world is significant and often serves as the cornerstone for social progress. When women are included in decision making, are given access to education, funding and opportunities growth occurs in every dimension of a community's life. The call to turn words into actions needs to be heeded.



Salesians of Don Bosco
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry



Gospel Roads III: Young Adults

El Salvador



2012 Holy Week Missions
Saturday March 31, 2012 – Monday April 9,

Challenged to be disciples and missionaries in a short term experience of faith, fun, fellowship and service to the communities in El Salvador

An opportunity to *walk with Jesus Christ* through *service to the young and the poor* in the *spirit of Don Bosco!*

Gospel Roads III El Salvador is open to all Catholic young adults interested in a short term holy week evangelization mission in some of the poorest areas of El Salvador
Registration Fee: \$500

For more information or to apply please contact Meg Fraino at (973) 761-0201 or mfraino@salesianym.com

Salesianym.com

gospelroads.org



BR. EMMANUEL FROM
TAIZÉ, FRANCE
WILL BE VISITING LOS ANGELES!

March 29 - April 1, 2012

St. Sebastian Catholic Church
1453 Federal Avenue, Los Angeles 90025
(310) 478-0136

Thursday, March 29th

6:30 pm– Taizé Community Conference (Ecumenism/The Prayer/Community Life) and Q&A Session
8:00 pm– Taizé Prayer

Friday, March 30th

6:30 pm– “Un Amour Méconnu” (Love Imperfectly, Known) by Br. Emmanuel.
Conference and Discussion about the book
8:00 pm– Taizé Prayer

Saturday, March 31st

Visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels, Newport Beach, Orange County, CA

Sunday, April 1st

Br Emmanuel will be in masses at St. Sebastian Catholic Church
7:30 am Sp/9:00 am En/10:30 am/12 noon Sp
3:00 pm– Personal Exchange with Br. Emmanuel at St Sebastian Church
5:00 pm– Taizé Prayer

*Musicians and singers interested in participating in the Taizé Choir please email:
stsebastianla.taize@gmail.com or call Allyson: (310) 989-3381

Choir Rehearsal: Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm, St. Sebastian Catholic Church
For more information: www.stsebastianla.org
email: stsebastianla.taize@gmail.com or call: (310) 478-0136



Also in association with Pilgrimage of Trust in Chicago: May 25-28, 2012. www.taize.fr/chicago.
For more information or to help, e-mail: chicago2012@taize.fr