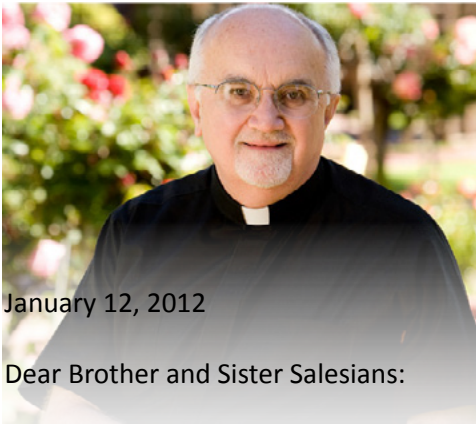




INTOUCH

Jan 12
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



January 12, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Last week I wrote about this being National Migration Week in the US Catholic Church. But attentive souls will already know that January 9-15 is also **National Vocation Awareness Week** in our country. The United States Bishops have a very attractive website that I encourage you to look at these days: foryourvocation.org.

In our Salesian world there can be no such thing as a Vocation Awareness Week. We are ALWAYS aware of cultivating vocations. As our Rector Major gave us to understand in last year's 2011 stenna (*Lord we want to see Jesus . . . Come and See*), creating a culture of vocations, not just for a week but always, is at the very heart of the Salesian mission. It is not an add on, or the job of one person in the province. We educate and evangelize in schools, parishes, and clubs in order that the young and all the people we serve will come to see their whole lives as a call from God to them to follow his Son Jesus on some path or other. No one does not have a vocation! Making that a lived reality in each of our presences is called "creating a vocation culture," and it requires pastoral planning.

Within that objective of creating a vocation culture in each of our presences lies the urgent need to identify those young people to whom we can propose the path of consecrated life and the priesthood as

Salesians of Don Bosco or Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. This is important to us, essential for us, not just to keep our provinces going and our houses full, but fundamentally because the young NEED to see the example of men and women for whom God is everything, men and women who are following the Lord's call to serve him with all they have and are, men and women who have decided to "stay with Don Bosco" and make the young their life's mission too.

And is that not the stenna for this year 2012? We want to come to know Don Bosco better and imitate him more closely. That can only mean making the young our life's mission, a mission to which the Lord has called and sent us. It's all about VOCATION.

So the thrust of this week's vocation awareness and of our stenna is twofold. It reminds us of the urgent need to create a vocation culture in each of our works. And it should also motivate us to give greater witness to our own vocation, to invite others to stay with Don Bosco, and to accompany them on that journey as competent Salesian guides.

Now speaking very practically, in just about two months, the province will be holding another Salesian Vocation Discernment Weekend (March 8-11 at Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley). Father Chinh has all the details. Sometimes at these weekends the majority of the young men have come from brochures or the internet, whereas very few if any are invited personally from our communities. It is my hope and firm desire that there be at least one young man at the next discernment weekend coming from each and every one of our presences. That would bring vocation awareness to a whole new level!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

January 2012

- 11-24 Visitations at Bellflower:
St. John Bosco, Savio,
DeSales Hall
- 12 ELA Boys & Girls Club
Board Meeting
- 16 SoCal Quarterly Day of
Recollection
- 18 Members Meeting,
St. John Bosco High School,
Bellflower
- 21 Rock Out Youth Poverty,
Savio
- 25-26 Office Days

Pray for Our Sick

Juan Trinidad

*father of Fr. Mel
heart, lung, and kidney problems
89 years old*

Fr. Paul Caporali, SDB

colon cancer surgery

Fr. Frank Wolfram, SDB (SUE)

hospice care

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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Weekly publications will be distributed on Wednesdays. Please submit news for publication by Friday of each week.
Send contributions to:
intouch@salesiansc.org.

St. Joseph's Christmas Festivities



On Sunday, December 25, 2011 many Salesians in the southland gathered at St. Joseph's Novitiate for Christmas California style - a BBQ in the patio! Everyone enjoyed the feast of food and most important family, together in Christ.



DBTI Community Faith and Fun

(Top) On Christmas Sunday DBTI had its annual midnight Mass that gathers many alumni and staff.



(Lower two) On Thursday, December 22, the DBTI community went to Pasadena to see the film "Tin Tin" in 3D and then went to a sea food restaurant for a wonderful meal that must have gotten their fish from DBTI.



St Bridget's Christmas Festival

By: Michael Lau

Despite the major wind storm experienced in Los Angeles prior to Christmas, that totally destroyed the canopy where the St. Bridget parishioners gather after mass every Sunday, the spirit of Christmas was not destroyed and the annual Christmas Festival went on as scheduled with only minor adjustments. The highlight of this annual event was, as always, the Nativity Story depicted by the children of the CCD class. A minor cultural change incorporated into the play, with much applause from the audience, was Chinese Lion Dancers who came to pay homage to our Infant Jesus.

We were also blessed with perfect weather for the outdoor activities after the play. Everyone gathered outside and enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by the volunteers. Different games with many prizes were also set up by the different sodalities: the Young Adults provided a game of ping-pong ball toss; the CCD teachers did face paintings for the kids; the Salesian Cooperators provided the Wheel for Prizes, having the children answer questions relating to Don Bosco, Jesus and Mary, etc., and the Youth Ministry Team provided the booth where the children claimed their prizes. And, of course, another highlight arrived when good old Santa Claus came with gifts for all the children and those young at heart!



Saturday Oratory at Wabash, ELA

By: Sheila Kun

What would Don Bosco do if he were at “Wabash” in East Los Angeles on a Saturday? For those who are not familiar with “Wabash,” it is an area where the Salesian Boys and Girls Club is the oasis for the under-served. In November 2011, our novices took it upon themselves to implement a program known as the “Saturday Oratory,” which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. most weeks.

One of the highlights of this oratory is to educate kids to choose healthy food. The lunch program is planned with the right choices for food and under the auspice of Novice Travis. The “kid chefs” prepare lunch, developing cooking skills and teamwork. Through this program, the oratory promotes healthy living.

The New Year 2012 ushered is another educational focus: the “Journal Club,” started on January 7th, for which 10 children have already signed up (with more to come).

It is a relatively simple concept:

- 1) The participants are club members who attend 5th grader or higher.
- 2) They commit to reading one book per month for the next 12 months. (Among these will be stories of Jesus and Don Bosco.)
- 3) Each month they will do a 2 page report, summarizing the main theme of the story and what they have done with the learned message.
- 4) They will do an oral presentation each month on their book.



5) At the end of their 12th book report, they will receive a bonus of \$50.

The Journal Club has created a lot of excitement among our Salesian Family. In two days we received five pledges to support the kids. You can be part of this innovative approach to nurture our children. By sponsoring them you will also accompany them on their “reading journey.” Checks can be made payable to the Salesian Society, noting the Saturday Oratory Journal Club on the note line. Your gift of \$50 per year will stimulate a child to read and do more.

Please mail donations or contact us for more details:

Sheila Kun

8545 Silver Ridge Dr.

Rosemead, 91770

E-mail Louiskun@yahoo.com

OR

Steve Demaio/ Fr. Joseph Paradayil, SDB

St. Joseph’s Salesian Noviate

P.O.Box 1639

Rosemead, CA 91770

Congratulations to our Novices Steve, Travis, John, Sean and Chris for being the brains behind the Saturday Oratory. Indeed, they are living our “back to Don Bosco”.

Gospel Roads III, Tijuana, Mexico

From December 26 to January 4, a group of Salesian young adult missionaries went to Tijuana to serve in the Salesian oratories there and also in an orphanage run by the state. The group consisted of Fr. Chinh Nguyen(SUO), Bro. Rob (SUE), Megan Fraino (Domestic Volunteer Coordinator SUE), Juan Carlos Montenegro (Delegate for Mission Animation SUO), 8 young adults from our Province (St. Dominic Savio, Corpus Christi, Salesian East LA and Richmond) and 3 young adults from the Eastern Province.

Committed to Serve

By Xochil Perez

I vividly remember the first time I decided to go on a missionary trip - it was the fall of September 2011. I went to Austria for vacation where I had the chance to talk to young adults my age (20) about their experience of volunteer service in different parts of the world, such as India, Africa and the islands. Hearing their stories motivated me to pursue a trip where I would dedicate part of my time to help others in need. Sending my application to go on the recent missionary trip, Gospel Roads Tijuana III, was a must.

As the date of the trip came closer, the intensity of my excitement grew. Strangely my excitement disappeared the first night I got to Tijuana and I became confused as to why I came. Maybe my excite-

ment disappeared so I could have a clear mind for what I was about to experience.

Tuesday morning came and we had lots of work to do. We arrived at San Domingo Savio and our first task was to

level out a dirt road and mix cement the old fashion way using water, cement packages, dirt, rocks and shovels. Using your strength to mix those items with a shovel was a work out! Fortunately, by working together it took us only two

days to make a cement road. I have never done manual labor before, but my knowledge of not knowing what I was doing did not stop me from completing this task.

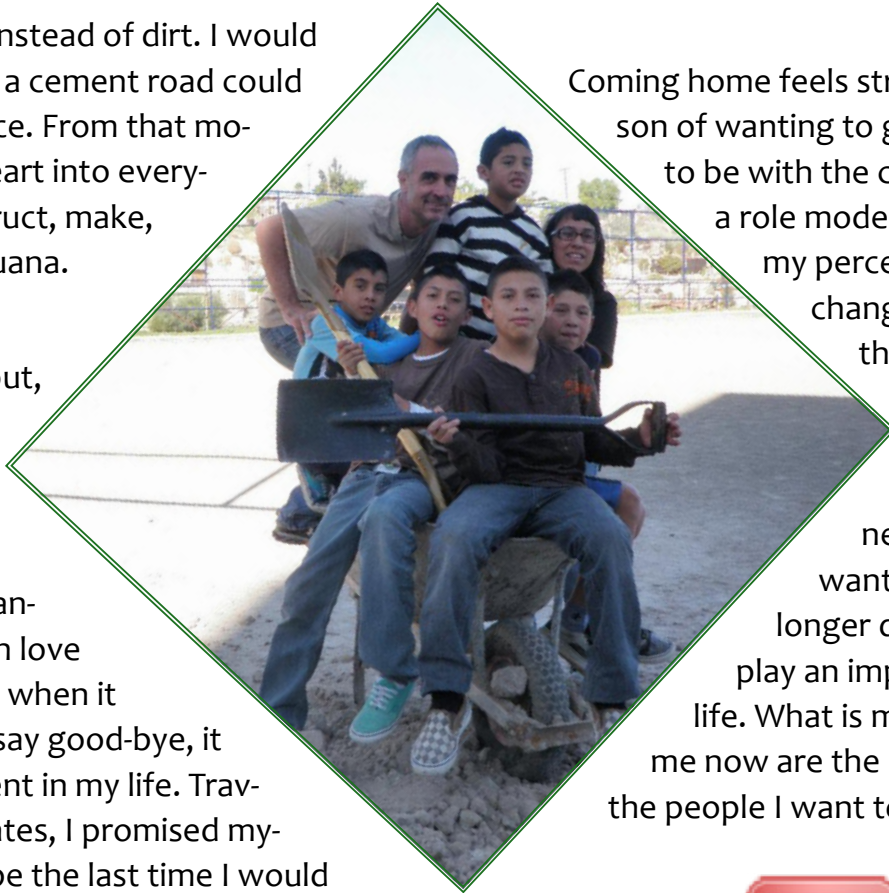
After the cement road was done, Ricardo, the local man that volunteers at San Domingo Savio, told me something that will forever be engraved in my memory. He told me this cement road would be appreciated because the people will finally get



Mission Animation

to walk on cement instead of dirt. I would never have thought a cement road could hold such importance. From that moment on I put my heart into everything I would construct, make, work on or do in Tijuana.

Not only did I help out, I got the chance to get close to the local kids in San Domingo Savio and the kids in the orphanage. Each day I fell in love with these kids, and when it was time for me to say good-bye, it was the hardest event in my life. Traveling back to the states, I promised myself this would not be the last time I would get to see those kids. Hence I made it my goal in life to go back to them, whether doing another Gospel Road or to serve one year in Tijuana. These children left their impression on my heart. They help me change my priorities in life. Getting my PhD in psychology is not the only thing I strive for now. Going on missionary trips is something very important in my life as well.



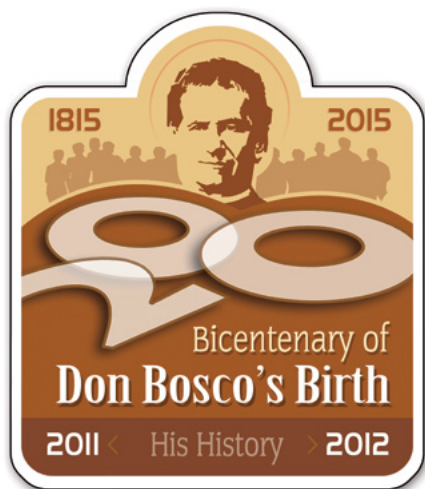
Coming home feels strange for the reason of wanting to go back to Tijuana to be with the children who need a role model. After this trip my perception of life has changed. Seeing how these people who live with little to nothing are filled with happiness is something I want to live up to. No longer do possessions play an importance in my life. What is most important to me now are the people I love and the people I want to help.



You can watch a wonderful video, Gospel Roads III, Tijuana on YouTube at:

<http://youtu.be/S6sn8rHaRog>





Don Bosco Study Nights Begin

by Fr. John Roche, SDB

I did not know what to expect with our Don Bosco Study Evening Sessions, but I am pleased to report that 18 people came last night as we inaugurated the first of the evenings at Don Bosco Hall. We had

representation from around the Bay Area including Saints Peter and Paul, Salesian in Richmond, Saint Ambrose parish, and other members of the Salesian Family.

The richest part of the evening, to be sure, was the input of Fr. Arthur Lenti. He patiently waited as I stumbled through a quick historical survey of Don Bosco's times using multimedia. After this overview, I introduced some themes from Don Bosco's understanding of his own times, his religious outlook, and the implications of those items for our own time. This brought us to the break and after 15 minutes for coffee and socializing, we started again. In the second hour, I introduced three questions to invite conversation. With Arthur at the helm, he not only corrected the historical context of Don Bosco, he responded to the questions and many others from those in attendance. This lively exchange went on for nearly 90 minutes. I interrupted the discussion so that people could go home at a reasonable hour.

Many are promising to return for the next two evenings and if the first event is any indication, these should be quite stimulating! The goal of these evenings is to showcase possible study sessions to be duplicated locally. Already, Corpus Christi is planning a full week of activities and study at the end of January! Kudos to all who are making an effort to get the word out and to engage in fruitful study and conversation!

SOUTHLAND LOCATION CHANGE

Don Bosco Study Nights

January 17, 18 & 19, 2012

will be held at

St. Joseph Salesian Youth Renewal Center

8301 Arroyo Ave. Rosemead, CA

(not at Salesian Residence Los Angeles)

Wilfred A. Rougeau (1916 - 2011)

By Fr. Marc Rougeau

Wilfrid Antoine Rougeau was born in St. Boniface, Canada, on December 20, 1916 to Arthur Rougeau and Alma Corbin. The family lived in Giroux, Manitoba and for a time in La Broquerie, Mb.



Laurette and Wilfred Rougeau

Wilfrid was the eldest of 4 boys in a family of 7 children. He is predeceased by Gilbert, Denis, Leonne, Doris and Jeanette, and survived by his brother, Leo of Winnipeg. Dad was also predeceased by his loving wife, Laurette who went to her eternal reward on June 23 of 2011 after 97 years of life. Since mom's death, dad had been living alone in the family home in St. Vital. Even though mostly blind, he was able to carry on with his daily duties of prayer, keeping house, cooking for himself, and being available to those around him. He was very

proud of the fact that he was able to manage by himself, but deeply missed the companionship and love of mom. Dad was very devoted to her care in the 7 long years of her illness. After her death, there was a tremendous void in his life. His daily rosary and prayers kept him close to her and to our Loving God.

Dad was a man of great faith and hard work. He treasured having good health so that he could be of help to his family, his church and his friends. As a carpenter, he took great pride in having renovated and built homes in California where he lived for 33 years. He often men-

tioned his love of having built a seminary and chapel for the Salesians of Don Bosco, which I joined in 1966.

Mom and dad returned to Winnipeg in 1984 to con-

tinue living out their senior years. Wonderful family, friends, and notably wonderful neighbors surrounded them here for the last 26 years. I wish to thank all of our family, friends, neighbors and the nursing staff at Victoria General Hospital for their kindness and attention to dad. I also extend my gratitude and that of my parents to Dr. F. Salem, who so lovingly cared them.

**Death for the
Salesian is made
bright by the hope
of entering into the
joy of his Lord.**

(C. 54)

Father Vincent Zuliani, SDB

(1927- 2011)

By Father Michael Mendl, SDB

Father Vincent Zuliani, SDB, died on the night of December 29 in his room at the Marian Shrine in Haverstraw, N.Y. He was found in the morning after he didn't come for morning prayers with the community. The cause of death is not yet known. He was 84 years old.

Father Zuliani was a Salesian for more than 68 years and a priest for over 55 years. He had belonged to the Salesian community of the Marian Shrine since the summer of 2008, regularly celebrating Mass and the sacrament of Reconciliation at the Shrine chapel.

Father Zuliani was born on February 1, 1927, at the little village of Blessano in the town of Basiliano, near Udine in northeastern Italy, to Paolo and Delfina née Antonutti Zuliani. One of his childhood friends, Msgr. Francesco Lucis, remembered: "From his infancy people noted in him a particularly reflective personality. He observed everything, gathering into his soul those holy impressions that were preparing him to receive from the Divine Artist the indescribable strokes of grace." By the time he was eight, he already wanted to become a priest, says Msgr. Lucis.

Vince entered the Salesian seminary at Ivrea in September 1938. One of his classmates, Father Michele Ceschia, SDB, recalled that during their four years of high school they never went home—"such were the times"—and only once was Mr. Zuliani able to afford



to come and visit his son. But Vince found in the Salesian house so much happiness, and so much friendliness from his superiors, that he easily decided "to stay with Don Bosco for good."

At Ivrea Vince was already noted for his beautiful singing voice, which

contributed to the seminary's church services. Since this particular seminary was intended for future missionaries, he was assigned to study English, with the United States as his intended destination, and he quickly became fluent.

From Ivrea Vince entered the Salesian novitiate in 1942 at Castelnuovo Don Bosco, which on account of the war was transferred within the year to Villa Moglia in Chieri. He professed vows on August 16, 1943. Brother Zuliani continued his studies first at Foglizzo, then at the Istituto Conti Rebaudengo, a unit of the Salesian Pontifical Atheneum in Turin, earning a doctorate in philosophy (*magna cum laude*) in 1949. He was then sent to the U.S. to teach philosophy, Latin, and Greek at Don Bosco College in Newton, N.J.—a ministry he carried out zealously until 1975, except for four years of theology studies (1952-1956) at St. John Bosco Theological School in Turin, familiarly called "the Crocetta" after its urban district. At the Crocetta he was awarded an STL degree, *magna cum laude*. He was ordained by Cardinal Maurilio Fossati on July 1,

1956, in the basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin.

Father Zuliani also earned a master's degree, *magna cum laude*, from Fordham University in 1960 in classical languages. From 1965 to 1975 he was also director of the Sons of Mary Program for late vocations at Don Bosco Seminary. He called these eight years "the best years of my life!" Both his students and the young men he directed have rich memories of him—not only of his keen intellect and demanding teaching style, but also of his love for music and drama, his zest for life, and his personal care for them.

Salesian Father Thomas Juarez wrote: "There was a fire and an enthusiasm in him, determined to make us learn Latin and Greek. Class was like being left in the hands of a drill sergeant, tough but we learned. We called him Fr. Family Spirit because of the energy and excitement he radiated."

Father Zuliani left the college scene to become director of Don Bosco Technical High School in Paterson, N.J., in 1975, serving until 1981. From 1984 to 1989 he was director of St. Dominic Savio High School in East Boston, and from 1999 to 2005 of the community at the Salesian Provincial House in New Rochelle, N.Y. He was associate pastor at St. Anthony's Church in Elizabeth (1981-1984, "three wonderful years," he said) and pastor-director there (1989-1998). From 2005 to 2008 he was associate pastor at St. Anthony's Church in Paterson, with particular care for the Italian population. He also used his considerable language skills to translate many Salesian works from Italian.

Father Zuliani is survived by his brother Gino of Bressa di Campoformido (Udine), Italy. He will be buried with his family in Bressa di Campoformido.

Sr. Celia Ramirez, FMA

By Father Michael Mendl, SDB



Sr. Celia Ramirez, FMA, age 85, died peacefully December 28, 2011 at Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, Celestino and Isabel Araiza Ramirez, and her siblings, except for one surviving sister, Micaela Moreno. She is also survived by numerous

nieces and nephews, and her religious community, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Sr. Celia spent all but six years of her 58 years as a Salesian Sister in her hometown of San Antonio at St. John Bosco School as a teacher and administrator. When she could no longer teach due to failing health, she lived at the Provincial House where she maintained contact with her many past students. Her name, fame, and presence made her a “legend” in San Antonio. Her fundraising efforts for Saint John Bosco School and for the Salesian Sisters were energetic and tireless. It was nearly impossible for anyone to say “no” to Sr. Celia. She had a zest for life and a winning smile that was characteristically hers. Even when illness weighed heavily upon her, she never refused a visit or a phone call from one of her countless friends and former students. She enthusiastically took part in community prayer and get-togethers. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother, her deep faith and joyful attitude will long be remembered by the many people whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Building Extension Fund, 6019 Buena Vista Street, San Antonio, TX 78237.

Mr. Dan Jiru

By Lois Maldonado

Dan Jiru entered eternal life at 4 a.m. on December 22, 2011. For a little over four years he fought for control of his brain cancer. He was a former Salesian Brother and cousin of Fr. Ralph Murphy.

Mr. Jiru was recognized several years ago by the Reader’s Digest for his effort to teach his students at St. Paul High

School in Whittier, CA, to care about the poor and disenfranchised. Both the school and Dan received a financial gift.

Around 30 years ago he started the “March for Hunger” at St Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, CA. The students would arrive at 5:30 a.m. in the gym for Mass. Prior to 7:00 a.m. the buses would leave Santa Fe Springs to drive to Ruben Sanchez Park in East Los Angeles. At 8:00 Mr. Jiru would lead the students, adults and faculty along Whittier Blvd. to Soto St., then north to Ceasar Chavez Blvd. The walk began as a marathon of 26 miles. Each year after, additional feet would be added so each walk was the longest ever.

The students walked by poverty, homelessness, ethnic areas (Mexican, Chinese, Korean, Phillipino, etc.). The middle of the walk was Hollywood and then followed through the streets of Beverly Hills. Finally, they emerged onto Wilshire Blvd. and followed it to the beach in Santa Monica. The plan allowed for the students families and staff to be supervised for every mile. There were designated drivers who picked up those who were lagging too far behind. Faculty would supervise the most dangerous intersections including on and off ramps for the 405 fwy.

Dan was a wonderful husband and father (Eric), a compassionate human being who demonstrated what he taught and an outstanding teacher.

