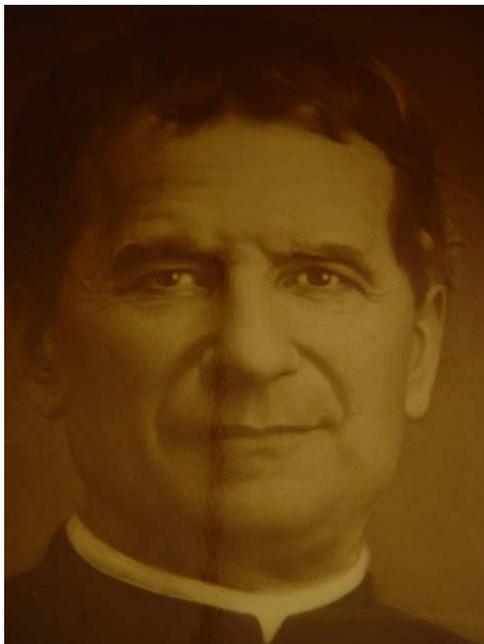


Don Bosco & His Successors



Don Bosco
(1815-1888)

Founder

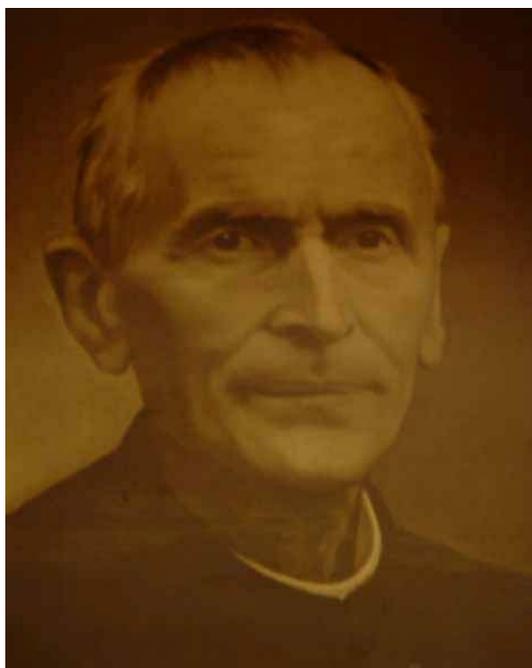
Becchi, Italy.

- 1851 - first 4 received cassock.
- 1854 - his collaborators called Salesians.
- 1855 - Rua professed the 3 vows.
- 1857 - received 'go ahead' signal from Rattazzi.
- 1858 - a draft of the constitution is presented to Pius IX.
- 1859 - first 'Act of the society' was drawn up, 18 members. Salesian society formed.
- 14/5/1862-22 made their profession.

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1869	62	31	4
1874	148	103	8
1881	452	144	36
1888	773	276	58

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC1	1877	Lanzo	23	13
GC2	1880	Lanzo	27	13
GC3	1883	Valsa	35	6
GC4	1886	Valsa	37	6

Valsa = Valsalice



Blessed Michael Rua
(1837-1910)

Rector Major (1888-1910) 22 yrs
Valdocco, Italy.

- John Baptist Rua was an inspector in an ammunitions factory.
- Last of 9 children. Lost his father at 8.
- 1845 - came to know Don Bosco.
- 1852 - entered the boarding.
- 1853 - began Philosophy in the seminary of Turin.
- 29/7/1860 - Priest at Caselle. Spiritual Director, In-charge of Education, Director of Oratory at Vanchiglia.
- 1863 - Rector at Mirabello.
- 1865 - at Valdocco, economer, discipline (700 boys). He was more father than superior. Fidelity to Don Bosco and Charism. International development.

	SDB	Nv.	Hse
1889	881	320	64
1898	2322	783	220
1905	3349	630	333
1910	4001	371	387

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC5	1889	Valsa	42	4
GC6	1889	Valsa	69	8
GC7	1889	Valsa	93	4
GC8	1889	Valsa	146	5
GC9	1889	Valsa	131	4
GC10	1889	Valsa	75	21



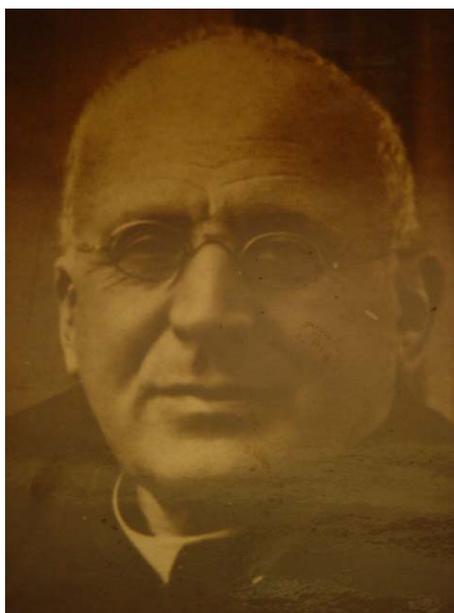
Fr. Paul Alberta
(1844-1921)

Rector Major (1910-1921) 11 yrs.
At None, between Turin and Pinerolo.

- Youngest of 7 children.
- First met Don Bosco in Oct. 1858 at the Parish of None Friend of Magone.
- He was called DB's Benjamin.
- Became SDB in 1862, one among the first 22.
- 22/8/1868 ordained at Casale. Then appointed prefect in Turin. .
- 1871 - made rector at Marassi.
- 1881 appointed Provincial of France.
- 1892 - He was chosen as Catechist General.
- 1910 - when he was elected Rector Major he received only a very slight majority of votes over Fr. Rinaldi who was then prefect of the congregation. Thinking of his poor health he said, 'I'm afraid that you will soon have to have another election'.
- His central concern was for the interior life, the spirituality of the Salesians and the consolidation of formation.

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1911	4090	310	396
1915	4257	446	354
1918	4447	434	370
1921	4638	437	413

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC11	1910	Valsa	73	13



Bl. Philip Rinaldi
(1856-1931)

Rector Major (1922-1931) 9 yrs

At Lu, in Monferrato, Piedmont. Adult vocation.

- Hesitated a long time before answering God's call and became a priest because of the encouragement of DB.
- At the age of 5 when meeting DB for the first time he said, "That priest is more important than a bishop".
- 1866 he entered Mirabello to discern his vocation.
- Could not get along with assistant. Left the school.
- 1876 - Don Bosco visited him and he followed him.
- Later in moments of crisis Fr. Albera helped him.
- 1882. ordained priest in obedience to Don Bosco.
- 1883. in-charge of late vocations.
- 1889 - Rua asked him to go to Spain.
- 1892-1901 - Provincial of Spain.
- 1901 -1922 - Prefect general of the congregation.
- Known for his fatherliness & kindness.
- Founder of Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB).

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1923	4975	523	457
1927	6312	772	596
1929	7170	898	629
1931	8059	895	692

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC13	1922	Valdo	64	16
GC12	1929	Valsalice	88	12



Fr. Peter Ricaldone
(1870-1951)

Rector Major (1932-1951) 19 yrs He was one of the last of the first generation who really saw Don Bosco. Born at Mirabello as son of a well-to-do farmer. He was a lively child.

- It was at Borgo San Martino that Peter managed to speak to DB.
- He first entered the diocesan seminary then in 1889
- He decided to enter the Salesian Novitiate at Valsalice and made the perpetual profession in 1890.
- Ordained on 27/5/1893. In 1901 he was made Provincial of Seville.
- 1898 - Fr. Rua sent him as his personal delegate to visit the houses in South America.
- From 1911-1927 he took charge of the technical schools as a consultant on the superior chapter.
- He made sure that the Coadjutors were well taught.
- Sent by Fr. Albera, he visited N & Central America from 1911-1912.
- 1919 - he went to Egypt and Palestine.
- 1922 - he was elected prefect general.
- 1926-1927 - he visited the sdbs in India, Japan, Thailand, Burma, China.

Consolidating the congregation through reorganization, promoting trade schools, developing catechetics through publishing houses, -LDC.

1941: 100 yrs of origin. World war II. 1940 Recognition of the faculty of theology at the Crocetta as the Pontifical Salesian Athenaeum.

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC14	1932	Valdocco	87	2
GC15	1938	Rebaudengo	105	13
GC16	1947	Valsalice	111	18

	Year	Place	No.	Days
1934	9449	959	757	
1942	12521	795		
1947	13583	943	1080	
1951	15182	1182	1076	



Fr. Renato Ziggiotti
(1892-1983)

Rector Major (1952-1965) 13 yrs. *First RM to resign.*
Born in Campodoro, Padua on 9/10/1892.

- At 9 came to the Salesian house at Este. His Parish Priest wanted him to enter the diocesan Seminary.
- 1908 - entered the Novitiate
- 1909 - made his profession in the presence of Don Rua.
 - World War I, called up in 1915, became lieutenant in the artillery,
 - wounded in the arm 1917 in the hospital he studied Theology,
 - demobilized only in 1919 with the rank of Captain.
- Ordained on 8/12/1920. Wanted very much to be a missionary.
- He was chosen thrice but each time something prevented him.
- 1931 - He was made Provincial of Central Province. After 4 yrs he was sent as the Provincial of Sicily.
- 1937 - He was called to the superior chapter to become the prefect general of education.
 - Under Fr. Ricaldone's direction he organized the philosophical and theological studies and the development of the schools of the congregation.
- As RM in 1954 he criss-crossed Europe, at the end of the year he started a tour of the world (Asia, Australia, USA and Canada)
- 1956 to Central America, then to Latin America & South America.

Re-launched the Congregation after the War. Strengthened the world wide character of the Congregation through his long journeys.
A man of God, he endeavoured to promote through his work and through his writings the spiritual life of the Salesians. He was an Optimist. He revived the sodalities.
He witnessed the canonization of Dominic Savio in 1954. He transferred PS A to Rome.
Participated in 1st session of Vatican II in 1962.

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1955	17161	1079	1198
1960	19295	1250	1343
1963	20562	1285	1327
1965	21185	1198	1371

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC17	1952	Valdoco	102	14
GC18	1958	Valdoco	119	13



Fr. Luigi Ricceri
(1901-1989)

Rector Major (1965-1977) 12 yrs.
Born in Mineo, near Catania, in Sicily.

- Ordained at 24 in 1925.
- In 1942 he was appointed Provincial of the sub-alpine province.
- In 1953 while he was the provincial of Milan Fr. Ziggiotti made him a member of the superior chapter.
- He was in charge of the Co-operators and the press.
- He improved the quality of the Co-operators by concentrating on their training and selection.
- He had the *Italian Salesian Bulletin* printed in offset with abundant illustrations.
- During the GC 19th which started on 8/4/1965 (between 3rd & 4th session of Vat. II) Fr. Ziggiotti insisted on not standing for re-election which came as a surprise for the electors and Ricceri was chosen to be the 6th successor of DB.
- A challenge was to confront the living tradition of DB with the needs of the time.
- Following topics were discussed in the GC:
 - *Structure of the Congregation,*
 - *Formation and life of Salesians*
 - *Work of the Salesian apostolate,*
 - *Education of boys ,*
 - *Constitutions & regulations.*
 - *Number of counsellors was raised to 9.*
 - *Post-Conciliar period (of crisis).*
 - *Stressed the importance of Brother Vocation & communications.*

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1968	21492	972	1427
1971	19737	686	1454
1973	18386	536	1500
1977	16599	420	1584

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC19	1965	PAS	151	53
SGC2	1971-2	Pisana	202	206



Fr. Egidio Vigano
(1920-1995)

Rector Major (1977-1995) 18 yrs

Egidio Vigano, the seventh successor of Don Bosco was born in Lombardia, Italy, on 26/6/1920.

- He became a Salesian in 1936.
- From 1939 to 1971 he spent his Life as a missionary in Chile.
- He participated in Vatican II as an expert Theologian.
- From 1977 to 1995 he guided the Salesian congregation to greater stability and expansion as the Rector Major of the congregation.
- For two years he also served the church as the President of the Union of Superior Generals (USG).
- As a member nominated by the Pope, he participated in six synods of bishops from 1980 to 1994 and the major Latin American Bishop's Conferences.
- He will be remembered for his number of theological and spiritual publications. He launched "Project Africa" and strengthened the Salesian Family.
- He sought to redefine the Salesian charism so as to adapt it to the new times.
- After a period of suffering from tumour, he died on 23/6/1995

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1980	16412	513	1814
1985	17046	656	1513
1990	16984	647	1641
1995	16899	657	1770

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC21	1977	Pisan	184	103
GC22	1884	Pisan	186	120
GC23	1990	Pisan	205	62



Fr. Juan Vecchi
(1931-2002)

Rector Major (1995-2002) 6 yrs. *First RM from the Missions.*

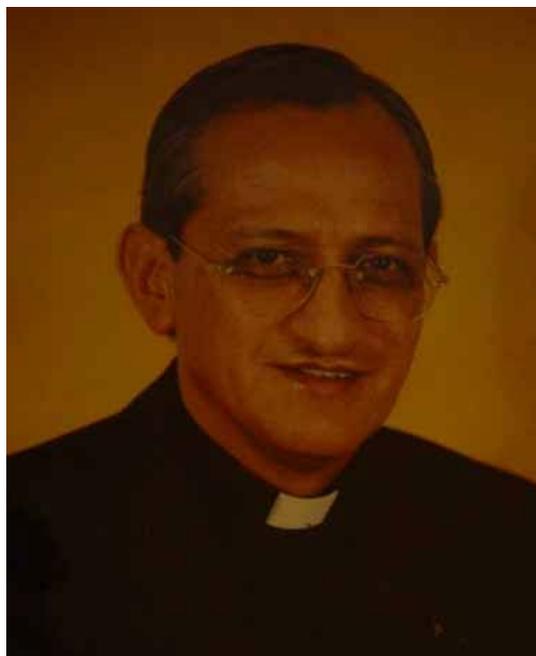
Juan Edmundo Vecchi, the eighth successor of Don Bosco was born as the last among seven children at Viedma in 1931 to an Italian couple who settled down in Argentina.

- He made his first religious profession in 1948 and in 1958 he was ordained priest.
- He participated in the 20th General Chapter as a delegate.
- From 1972 to 1977 he served the congregation as a Regional Councillor in the General Council and from 1977 to 1990 he rendered his service to the congregation as the Councillor for Youth Pastoral.
- Elected in 1990 as the Vicar General of the congregation, he carried it out faithfully till 1996, but at the death of Father Vigano in 1995 he had to take upon himself the added responsibility of guiding the congregation into the 24th General Chapter during which he was elected as the Rector Major on 20th March 1996, a responsibility he carried out faithfully and with much difficulty especially in the last days because of his serious illness.
- He died at the infirmary of UPS on 23/1/02 at the age of 70.

He underlined the cultural dimension of formation. He stressed the educational and pastoral nature of Salesian action as he launched the idea of an updated PS. He developed the 'project mentality' and working with laity & Salesian Family.

	SDB	Nv.	Hse.
1996	16823	602	1772
1997	16761	602	1792
1998	16680	547	1809
1998	16596	504	1831

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC24	1996	Pisana	208	62



**Rector Major (2002-)
Fr. Pascual Chavez Villanueva**

Mexican, was born on Dec. 19, 1947 at Real de Catorce (San Luis de Potosi), a mining area in the centre of Northern Mexico.

Later, his family moved to Saltillo (in the state of Coahuila) where Pascual attended the Salesian school, "Colegio Mexico"; this is where his vocation began and he pursued his goal of following Don Bosco.

- He made his first profession at Coacalco in August 1964, and made his perpetual profession at Guadalajara in 1970.
- He was ordained a priest on the 8th of December 1973 at "Perla Tapatia", the capital of the state of Jalisco.
- He spent the first years of his ministry among the young Salesians of the formation community of Chapalita (Guadalajara).
- From 1975 to 1977 he studied at the Biblical Institute in Rome where he obtained his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture.
- He was the Rector of the Theological Institute of San Pedro Tlaquepaque from 1980 to 1988 where he taught Sacred Scripture.
- From 1986 to 1989 he was also a Provincial Councillor of the Province of Mexico-Guadalajara.
- From 1989 to 1994 he was Provincial of the same Province, which comprises the whole northern part of Mexico right up to the border with the United States.
- In 1995 he began his Doctorate in Biblical Theology and took up residence at Madrid-Carabanchel where he stayed till he obtained his degree from the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Spain).
- In 1996, during the GC24, Fr. Vecchi called him over the telephone and asked him to become a regional councillor, even though he was not a member. The new Rector Major's mother tongue is Spanish, but he is also fluent in English and Italian, and understands German, French and Hebrew as well. In addition to his ecclesiastical degrees, Fr. Chavez is also a qualified teacher in science subjects. Both the types of formation have made him a solidly spiritual person.

	SDB	Nv.	Hsc.
1999	16692	504	
2000	16502	512	
2001	16422	491	2073

	Year	Place	No.	Days
GC25	2002	Pisan	231	51