

January 3, 2013



## Provincial's Letter

January 3, 2013

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Happy New Year one and all!

Still living the Christmas mystery and celebrating its joy, we are headed for the celebration of the Lord's Epiphany this coming Sunday. He was born among us, son of Mary and son of God, revealed to the nations as Light of the World.

This coming Sunday's feast of the Epiphany also marks the beginning of **National Migration Week** here in the US, January 6-13, 2013. Yes, there is increasing energy

in DC for immigration reform, but apart from that, this week is a call from our bishops to recognize our responsibility as Catholics to help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful and culturally sensitive. Our bishops are calling us to work for the conversion of hearts and minds, our own and those of our fellow citizens, to create a culture and practice of hospitality for newly arrived immigrants, with papers or without.

It was ten years ago that our bishops, in union with the Mexican bishops' conference, issued the joint pastoral letter *Strangers No Longer*. I hope we all read it, especially if we have not yet done so. So this year's theme picks up

on the anniversary of that seminal document: "We are Strangers No Longer: Our Journey of Hope Continues."

Of course we Salesians, besides the animation of our bishops, also have another reason to take National Migration Week as a call to conversion. Don Rua sent the first Salesians to San Francisco precisely to begin the work here among immigrants. Not to mention the insistence Don Bosco had with the first missionary bands he sent to South America that they begin serving the Italian immigrants. The fifth priority in our Organic Plan must be understood then not as something trendy and optional, but rather as something charismatic (flowing from our origins and identity) and essential.

So because we are Catholics in the US today following our bishops' teaching, and because we are Salesians striving to be faithful to our founding charism, let each community "respond prophetically in all our presences to the economically poor with a special focus on the undocumented" (POP, priority 5).

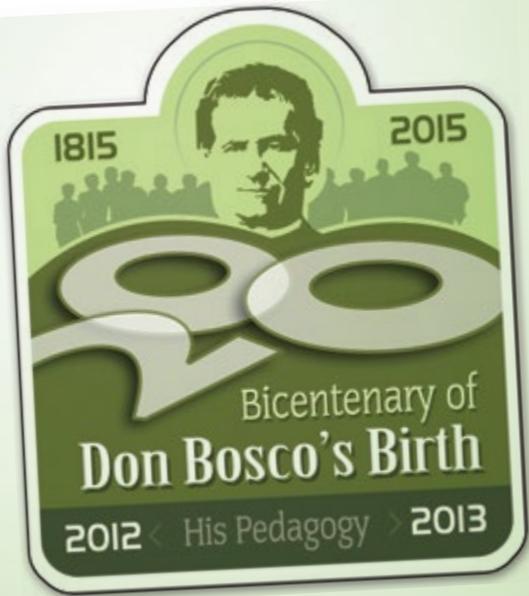
The manifestation of the Lord as Savior of the whole world on the Epiphany is the most basic foundation for our stance on migration. Tradition has it that the three wise men came from Europe, Asia, and Africa to find the Light of the World. No matter where we come from we share a common faith in Jesus. This is what makes us "strangers no longer." Not the documents we carry.

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB

Provincial



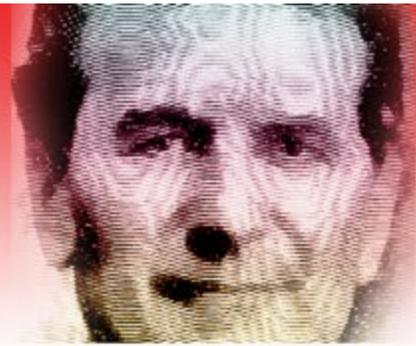


## EDUCATION OF THE HEART

8. **To be read.** “The Preventive System in the Education of the Young,” the Letter from Rome, and the biographies of Dominic Savio, Michael Magone, and Francis Besucco are all writings of Don Bosco that illustrate well both his experience as an educator and the choice of his pedagogical methods. In fact, these books were written so that we might come to know our dear founder and father’s pedagogical and educational sensitivity, what was dear to him in putting young people at the center of things, in helping them take the lead in their own formation, the atmosphere to be created to ensure success in education. From this point of view, the biographies become three methods which are different according to the starting point for each of these three boys from the Valdocco oratory, and suited to their needs. For Don Bosco it was necessary to start from where each boy was without waiting for some ideal situation to arise, concentrating on the values and attitudes they brought with them and setting goals to be reached.



► Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB  
STRENNA 2013



## PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR



### January 2013

- 3-5 Office Days
- 6-8 Provincial Council Meeting,  
Sts. Peter and Paul
- 9 Province Finance Commission  
Meeting
- 10-15 Office Days
- 16 Members Meeting, St. John Bosco  
High School, Bellflower
- 17 Travel East
- 18 Faculty Inservice, Don Bosco Prep,  
Ramsey, NJ
- 19 Postnovitiate Curatorium,  
Orange, NJ
- 20-21 Family Visit
- 22 Travel West

January  
month of  
Don Bosco



# 2013 STRENNNA

## **December 31, 2012 – Salesian GHQ - Knowing Don Bosco, Volume II: The strenna on pedagogy**

(ANS – Rome) – In keep with tradition, early in the afternoon of December 31 the Rector Major officially presented Strenna 2013 by visiting the Generalate of the Salesian Sisters. Don Bosco started the tradition of presenting a strenna in 1849, and the tradition this year continues with an issue devoted to knowledge and deepening of his pedagogy. This is the second theme of the three-year journey of preparation for the celebration of the bicentennial of his birth (1815-2015).

In the auditorium of the FMA Generalate, in the solemn simplicity of a family atmosphere, Fr. Pascual Chávez met Mother Yvonne Reungoat, a large representation of FMAs, and some other members of the Salesian Family.

The theme and structure of Strenna 2013 was presented briefly, expressed in the now famous slogan: "Like Don Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness."

The true "gift" (hence the term strenna), however, is the commentary that the Rector Major presents to the whole Salesian Family. These are pages that must be read and studied in-depth, personally and in the various animation groups, locally and regionally.

"Once again this time our approach will not be only an intellectual one," writes the Rector Major. "On the one hand, a deeper study of Salesian pedagogy is certainly necessary in order to update it according to the sensitivities and the demands of our own times. Nowadays the social, economic, cultural, political, and religious contexts in which we are trying to live our vocation and carry out the Salesian mission have profoundly changed. On the other hand, in order to be faithful to the charism of our Father it is equally necessary to make our own the contents and the method of the education and pastoral care he offered. In the context of society nowadays we

are called to be holy educators as he was, giving our lives as he did, working with and for the young."

Besides some reflections on the well-established principles of the Preventive System (reason, religion, kindness, good Christian and honest citizen), the Rector Major offers great benchmarks and commitments for the Salesian family.

The commentary is a true path to knowledge, backed up with suggestions for some effective training and programming.

The emphasis is strong on the Gospel of joy – as suggested by the verse that goes with the slogan: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice" (Phil 4:4) – a message that must be understood correctly: "Joy, rather than being a passing sentiment, is an interior force which is able to resist the difficulties of life." "Don Bosco took the desire for happiness the boys had and translated their joy of life into the language of cheerfulness, of the playground, of celebration; but he never stopped pointing out to them that God was the source of true joy," writes the Rector Major in his commentary.

In conclusion, Fr. Chavez focuses on Venerable Mama Margaret. "From her Don Bosco learned those values and attitudes that he used with his boys, and that as the years passed became the foundation of the pedagogy that he left to his Salesians." A simple and direct way that recalls how the effectiveness of good Salesian pedagogy is intrinsically linked to the educator; a pedagogy that inevitably, by assimilation, transmits the values the educators believe in to whomever they can relate to and have a dialog with. This aspect is underlined by a reference to a poem from an Indian Salesian that the Rector Major makes his own.

The strenna is available in electronic form from Salesian Communications in New Rochelle (salesianstudies@gmail.com) and in print in the Acts of the General Council no. 415. A video commentary is also available at [www.sdb.org](http://www.sdb.org) with.



Fr. Al Mengon (birthday), Fr. Bob Stein, Fr. Austin Conterno (sitting next Bro. "Z") Bro. Abel Zanella, Fr. David Purdy and Bro. Joseph Lockwood

# The Greatest Christmas Gift is when ...

By: Brother Joseph Lockwood, SDB

On Wednesday, December 19, 2012, Fr. Bob Stein chauffeured Fr. Austin Conterno (the second oldest confrere in the Province) and me to Watsonville to visit Brother Abel Zanella (the oldest confrere in the Province by 3 months). It was also Fr. Al Mengon's 75th birthday and he invited us to join in that celebration.

Fr. David Purdy welcomed us with open arms as we went into house to visit with Bro. "Z". I felt the great joy when I saw "Count" gave a big hug to Bro. "Z". (Bro. "Z" shook hands with the others, but kissed the hands of Fr. Conterno.) That had to be for me the greatest Christmas gift anyone would want; visiting a sick confrere who has given so much to our Province.

I found out later that Bro "Z"'s good friend Gerry L'Heureux with his wife Carol had visited him on Monday giving him a beautiful Christmas gift of "Quarenta y Tres" (the famed Diego Zamora liqueur, Bro. "Z"'s favorite.) Yes, we partook of a bit a Christmas cheer, after singing the Christmas novena, of course. Mike and Luis added to the merriment.

Please continue to pray for Bro. Zanella and the community.



Fr. Austin Conterno greets Brother Abel Zanella

*Getting to Know*

# Don Bosco

**December Issue**  
Now Available Online



**CLICK HERE**

This issue of “Getting to Know Don Bosco” is packed with rich insights.

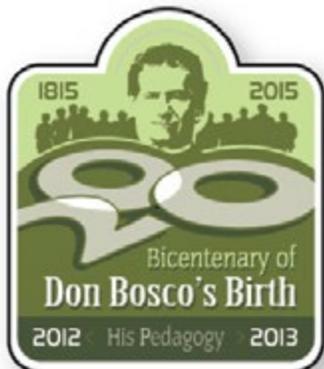
We begin with insights from this November’s gathering of Salesian scholars in Turin, we get a sneak preview of what is to come in future study guides that focus on Don Bosco’s spirituality.

Then Fr. Giuseppe Buccellato shares a diagram he made that outlines Don Bosco’s Spiritual Roots.

The third part of this study guide is a short introduction to Fr. Joseph Cafasso’s Religious stance, written by Lucio Casto and translated by Fr. Arthur Lenti.

The spotlight article by Fr. Joseph Boenzi delves into the historical context of Don Bosco’s Youth.

[SalesianStudies.org](http://SalesianStudies.org)



# Salesian Volunteer

## FAITHFUL AND FORGIVING

Jessie Smith

Another young woman from my oratory who demonstrated something beautiful to me was a teacher at our school. A few weeks ago in a city East of Tijuana her brother was killed when trying to protect his son from robbers that had entered their house. Fr Francisco, the members of our community, and myself attended the funeral and brought support and prayers to her family during that time. The next week she was back at school and teaching her 4th graders again. One day we had to go to the store to buy some supplies for our little “tienda” or shop that we have at the oratory. On the way she told me that the police had put in jail the men who had killed her brother. The next thing she said was very beautiful to me. She said, “I feel sorry for them. I feel happy that they have been found, but I also feel sad because they are young boys around the age of 20 and they have their whole life ahead of them, but in prison. She went on to say that she knows that they killed her brother but she couldn’t help but feel sad for their families because they are all human beings too. She continued saying that though it was so difficult to lose her brother in this way, she has not lost her faith in God and that she knows God places difficult things in our life to bring us closer

to Him. She said that some of her friends were questioning her why she still believed in God after this, but she said she trusts God and knows He is taking care of her and her family.

I thought this was so incredibly beautiful and demonstrated a great faith. So many people are so blinded by anger and hatred over sometimes matters so much smaller than this, and this woman had compassion on those who killed her brother. To me, this is Christ in person showing compassion and great faith.

One final note about this woman: The following week after her brother’s funeral, the father of one of the students in her class passed away from an illness. The teacher was the first one to collect money for that family amongst us at the school and bring it personally with her students to the house of the family who’d lost their father. Though visiting a house with a loss could be something so difficult, she was the first to offer to bring them money to help with the funeral.

These are only a few examples of my growing understanding of the reality of the lives of those around me that I see and work with every day. I am humbled and find myself often asking God in prayer, what

do I have to bring to them Lord? In these past few weeks I have really been praying for God to continue to reveal to me where He needs me most here right now. Through my prayers I’ve have begun to see very evidently the face of Christ around me and in my experience. I constantly think of a quote

“TO DO ORDINARY THINGS OF LIFE WITH GREAT LOVE AND ATTENTION....You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the LOVE AT WHICH WE DO THEM.”- St Terese.

I feel that so often my role here is not to do a bunch of things though I’m teaching, and coaching, and helping with lots of events, I find that my day is most fulfilling or most beautiful when I take time to really listen to others and to try to be open to the Holy Spirit. One day I wrote in my journal “I feel my call is to love those around me, to be patient and kind, to give genuine attention to everyone, and to be joyful and generous”. This to me is a true missionary spirit, and this sometimes can be the most difficult thing to do no matter where you are in life!

## DE SALES HALL, BELLFLOWER

# NO! Not yet ...

By: Brother Joseph Lockwood

Last week was a disappointing time for the project. I had been informed by the on-site supervisor Alex DeLeon that the final inspection would take place on December 27, 2010 around 11:00 am. So I spent the day after Christmas (December 26, 2012) driving down. Just to let you know, to drive to Los Angeles by yourself is terrible!

On Thursday morning I met with Alex who informed me that the final inspection would not take place until January 3, 2013 because the Assistant Building and Safety Department Head Chris Christopoulos was on Christmas break until January 2, 2013. After lunch, I phoned the Provincial, Fr. Tim Ploch, to give him this bad news.

But that afternoon there was a meeting with the City of Bellflower Building Inspector Jeff Ganaway at 2:30 pm, who showed up at 3:30 pm. We walked through the building and found a few items that still need to be corrected (like two exits on the North side of the building that are not in compliance with ADA

specifications). The pilot lights for the stove do not light and some of the labels for the doors are missing. The labels indicate that the door are fire rated. What happened was that when the doors were refinished, the painters removed them and did not put them back.

The other sticking point is the gate to the parking lot. The architect wanted to install two separate gates (that means two separate motors) but our desire is for one gate that slides north. After a little discussion, there will be one gate.

This last week, Vincor began to work on the Public Works up-grading requirements.

The landscapers were in to put in the plants as specified on the plans.

On Sunday, Dave from Hobart Company asked one of the other service persons to service the stove pilot lights. They are now in good working condition.

Pray that on Thursday, January 3, 2013, we receive the occupation permit from the City of Bellflower.



# THE SOUL

What does the word "soul" mean? ... No one can give a definition of the soul. But we know what it feels like. The soul is the sense of something higher than ourselves, something that stirs in us thoughts, hopes, and aspirations which go out to the world of goodness, truth, and beauty. The soul is a burning desire to breathe in this world of light and never to lose it - to remain children of light.

*Albert Schweitzer*  
*Reverence for Life*



PLEASE PRAY FOR  
OUR SICK



**BRO. BRUNO DePRETTO, SDB**  
took sick in Italy



**FR. JOHN MALLOY, SDB**  
recovering from a fall



MAY THEY REST IN  
THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
Please pray for the repose  
of the souls of



**Fr. Emil Fardellone, SDB (SUE)**  
December 30, 2012  
Aged 96  
Marrero LA



**Fr. William Lynn, SJ**  
December 27, 2012  
Theology Professor  
at the Josephinum 1979-2007





Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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

**D**ear Salesians and friends of the Salesian mission,

At the beginning of January 2013 I wish you a year full of light!

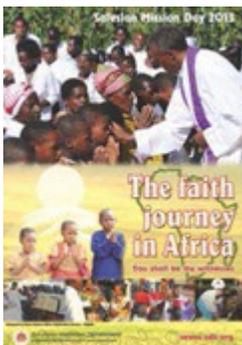
We are living the Year of Faith, a time of grace. As true sons of Don Bosco we want to live always with a deep sense of the Church. The theme of the Salesian Mission Day 2013 “**The faith Journey in Africa**” helps our journey during this Year of Faith: The catechumenate stories and the models of catechists, help us to be inspired by the young Christian communities.

My heartfelt thanks to all the confreres of Africa who have made available to us the dynamics of the immense “spiritual ‘lung’ for a humanity that appears to be in a crisis of faith and hope” (Benedict XVI, *Africae Munus* 13).

During this Year of Faith I invite you to live the prayer for the SMD 2013: “Jesus, walk with me, Jesus stay with me ... I am your witness!”

*Václav Klement*  
**Fr. Václav Klement, SDB**  
 Councillor for the Missions

**Salesian Mission Day 2013**



The annual **Salesian Mission Day**, celebrated on a date chosen by each Province, aims to help every Salesian, every educative-pastoral community and the whole Salesian Family to be aware of the various missionary commitments of the Congregation, open our eyes to new missionary realities, overcome every temptation to withdraw into one’s territory or context as well as to be reminded of the universality of the Salesian charism. This year’s theme is **The faith Journey in Africa**. The celebration of the Salesian Mission Day ought to be the highlight (after an educational - pastoral journey with various initiatives which lasts some weeks) and expression of the missionary spirit which is kept alive throughout the year in the whole Educative-Pastoral Community.



[http://www.sdb.org/en/SDB\\_webTV/Sectors/SMD\\_2013](http://www.sdb.org/en/SDB_webTV/Sectors/SMD_2013)  
[http://www.sdb.org/it/SDB\\_webTV/Congregazione&IDVideo=495&page=1](http://www.sdb.org/it/SDB_webTV/Congregazione&IDVideo=495&page=1)



**A “kairos” for Africa and Madagascar**

**O**ne thing that impresses anyone who visits Africa is the number of Chinese who are present in the continent. Some estimate that there are at least **25 million Chinese in Africa!** Some of these, especially the young, come to our centres and oratories mainly for sports, and sometimes also to “enjoy” some of our liturgical celebrations. Perhaps they become, sometimes, the butt of our jokes. Yet, if we examine deeper this situation with missionary sensitivity, it becomes obviously clear that many of them, if not most of them, have not heard the Gospel nor of Jesus Christ.

It is perhaps a happy coincidence that last November 5-9, 2012 the Study Days was on the Initial Proclamation of Christ in Africa and Madagascar which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia while this year’s Salesian Mission Day focuses on the proclamation of Christ in Africa. These two occasions impel us to look around us with the missionary heart of Don Bosco!

With the missionary eyes of Don Bosco we see around us “the urgency of proclaiming the Good News to the millions of people in Africa who are not yet evangelised” (*Ecclesia in Africa*, 47). ) It is important, therefore, to stir up an interest in Jesus Christ among those who do not know him, as well as to revitalise the faith of African Christians who have become lukewarm in their faith.

Yet, Pope Benedict XVI also invited us to «recover the ardour of the beginnings of the evangelization of the African continent” (*Africae Munus*, 164). Such missionary ardour opens our eyes to the missionary possibilities of the Chinese presence in Africa. Indeed, **here we have all the possibilities to proclaim the Gospel which the Church in China does not have!** The New Testament uses the term *kairos* to describe “the appointed time in the purpose of God”, the time when God acts (e.g. Mark 1,15). I am convinced that we have to respond to this time of God’s visitation. It is for this reason that I invited the Provincials of the African Region during our last meeting to discern what God is telling us today before such a massive Chinese presence. I am confident that an abundant harvest awaits us if we respond with missionary audacity to this *kairos* for the Church and the Congregation in Africa & Madagascar!

*Fr. Guillermo Basañes, SDB*  
 Regional Councillor for Africa & Madagascar

## African and missionary in Africa!

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, I was born into a Catholic family. I encountered Jesus through the initiative of my mother ... One day while I was walking in front of a church my mother told me: "My son let's go to greet Jesus in the Church ..." I did not understand her. But when we entered the church I saw her kneel and make the sign of the cross. I was greatly impressed by her gesture, and it was from this moment that I began to feel the presence of God in my life. Between 1990 and 1992 my country went through a very difficult time and there were many abandoned children. Meeting these children in the street some questions sprung from my heart: "Why are these children suffering this way?, Has Jesus forsaken them?" The words of Jesus came as a response from the bottom of my heart: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"(Matthew 25,40). I decided to commit my life to the service of suffering children of the world. This was the moment when my missionary vocation was born.

As a Salesian prenovice I was very happy that Father Provincial sent me to work with children in difficulty. And there I shared with my Rector the missionary call that I felt in my heart. Fr. Rector advised me to express this missionary desire once I arrive at the novitiate. During my novitiate Father Master strongly encouraged me in this vocation and advised me to continue my discernment. In the Philosphate I wrote to the Rector Major, Don Vecchi, who accepted my application and sent me to the *West Africa Francophone Province* (AFO) which is composed of 7 countries. I worked in Togo for two years during my Practical Training. After my priestly ordination I was in charge of the home for children in difficulty and youth ministry in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Since 2010 I am in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso among children of Belleville where we are opening a new Salesian presence.



Throughout this missionary journey, I encountered many difficulties that are part of this joy of proclaiming Jesus. I have had difficulty adapting to the language and climate. But my greatest joy is having met brothers and sisters of West Africa who are very appreciative of an African who is a missionary in Africa. I was impressed by what some had told me in similar words: "You're an African and you left your country, your parents, your friends to come to stay and live with us. By doing this, you have become our brother and son. Do not be afraid we are with you in this mission that God has entrusted to you in our midst..."

I would like to invite the young Salesians not be afraid to respond to God's missionary call to them: *God needs you in this world wherever he wants you to be his witnesses, even to the ends of the earth. Live the mission wherever you are. To all missionaries: Let us be the page of the Gospel which attracts the young to the missionary life!*

*Fr. Albert Kabuge  
congolaise, missionary in Burkina Faso*

### NEW MISSIONARIES SOUGHT for OCEANIA

Province	>	AUL - Australia
Language	>	English, languages of migrants
Note	>	multicultural & secularised society. Few young Salesians, educational works (Schools and Youth Centres), pastoral care for migrants



## Salesian Missionary Intention

### MOR - Middle East Province

For the members of the MOR Province and their lay collaborators present in all seven countries so that, in the midst of many difficulties, they may continue the Salesian mission of education and evangelisation with faith, courage and patience.

*The Province was established through Fr. Antonio Belloni in the Holy Land (1893) which was later extended to Egypt (1896), Turkey (1903), Iran (1937), Syria (1948), Lebanon (1952). In January 2012, MOR had the first Provincial of Arab origin Fr. Munir El Rai, from Syria. Now there are 33 local confreres (Egypt 15, Syria 13, Lebanon 3, Iran 1 Iraq 1) and 75 missionaries from the following countries: Italy 42, India 7, Poland 6, Vietnam 3, Spain 2, Malta 2, Chile 1, Haiti 1, Philippines 1, Kenya 1, Mexico 1, Paraguay 1, Slovenia 1, East Timor 1, Venezuela 1, USA 1) - most of these are elderly. The diversity of languages, cultures, religions and different Christian rites, the difficulties of social origin and status and the various armed conflicts also make our mission of education and evangelisation not easy.*



All previous issues of "Cagliero 11" are available at [purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliero](http://purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliero)