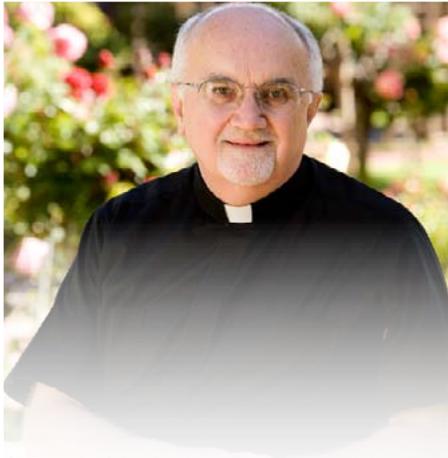




# INTOUCH

July 12  
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



July 12, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

I'm writing from Salesian High School, Richmond, where the provincial council and I are having our monthly meeting. Summer classes are being offered in the school, and the West Contra Costa Salesian Boys and Girls Club has close to 300 (!) kids in their summer program. Lots of busy and happy young people everywhere!

Meanwhile the council and I are locked away inside a meeting room attending to matters like our province finances, personnel situations, and other issues that are of importance to the province: some legal problems facing us, the upcoming Leadership Meeting and Directors/Pastors Meeting, discerning who could be the next Delegate for Social Communications after Judy Alvarez, etc. As is customary at every meeting we also dedicate about an hour to reflecting on some key document for our own formation. This time we read the Rector Major's initial presentation of Strenna 2013: *Like Don*

*Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness.* If you haven't seen it yet (only 5 pages) it would be well worth every Salesian's and every Salesian community's while (yes, even during the summer), to access it at **sdb.org**, download it, print it, reflect on it, discuss it, fit it into our pastoral planning for the coming pastoral year.

During the course of our meeting these days we also spent some time doing some preliminary planning for two BIG events that our province will be graced with this coming pastoral year: the Extraordinary Visitation and the Provincial Chapter.

**Extraordinary Visitation.** Fr. Esteban Ortiz, Regional for InterAmerica, has just sent the calendar for the Extraordinary Visitation of our province which he will carry out in the name of the Rector Major. Again, more details later, but the visitation will run from February 10 to May 11, 2013.

**Provincial Chapter 2013.** During Easter week (April 1-5, 2013) we will have our next Provincial Chapter to prepare for General Chapter 27, to elect a delegate for GC 27, and to take up some province business. Very soon I expect to get a letter out to everyone with more details.

Much to be thankful for. Much to look forward to.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB  
Provincial

## First year of preparation:

**Knowledge of Don Bosco's history**  
**16 August 2011 - 15 August 2012**

During this first year of preparation we need to set ourselves a systematic plan for the study and assimilation of Don Bosco. The study of Don Bosco is an essential condition in order to be able to communicate his charism and propose his current relevance. Without knowledge there cannot be love, imitation or intercession; then only love can lead to greater knowledge. It is a question therefore of a knowledge which starts from love and leads to love: an affective knowledge.

Fr Pascual Chávez, SDB

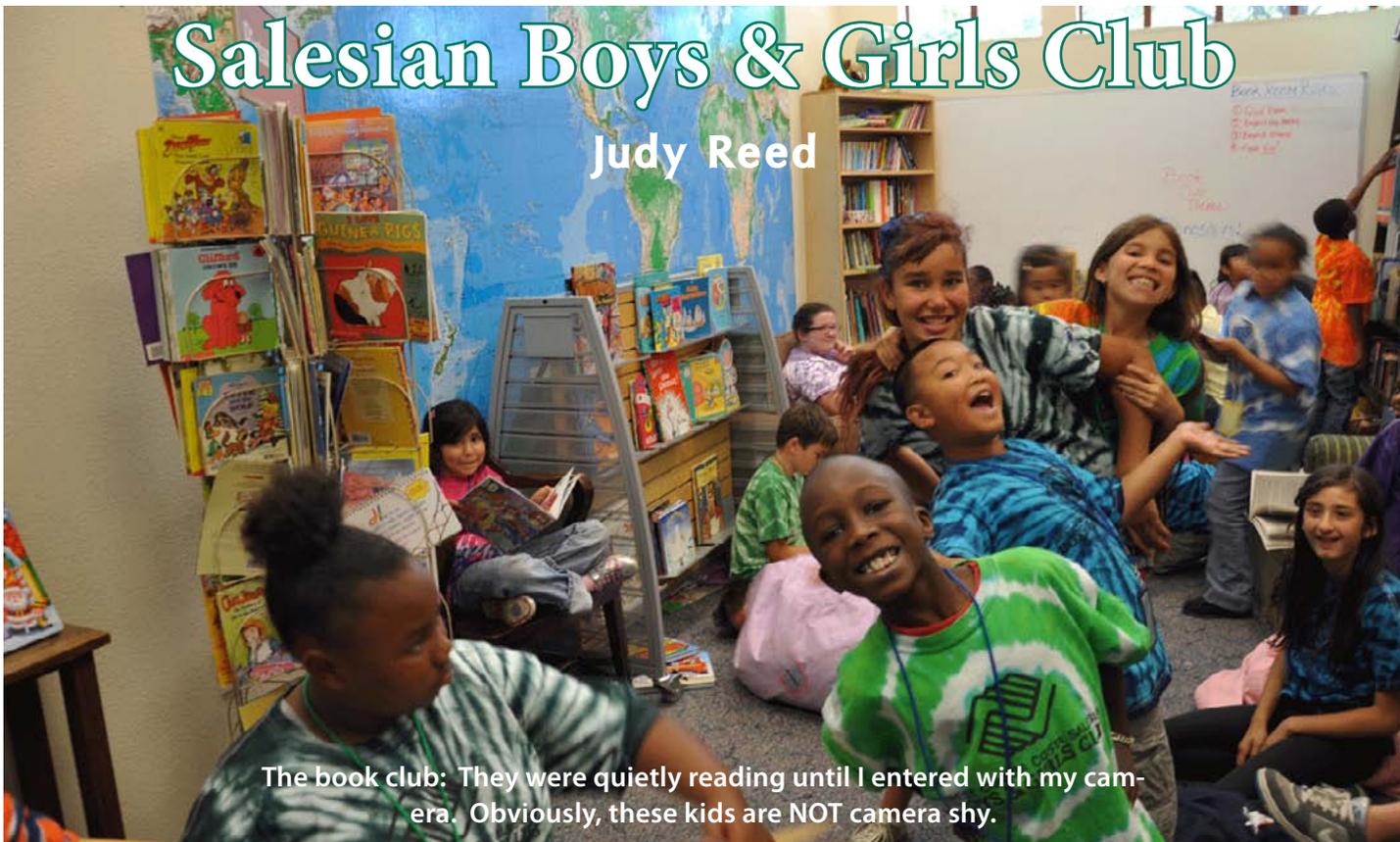
## PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR

### JULY 2012

- 12 Board Meeting, Los Angeles Salesian Boys & Girls Club
- 13-17 Office Days
- 18 Members Meeting, Salesian High School, Richmond Board Meeting, West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club
- 19 Office Day
- 20 Camp Mass, St. Luke's, Stockton
- 21-22 Office Days
- 23-27 Visit Los Angeles Communities

# West Contra Costa Salesian Boys & Girls Club

Judy Reed



The book club: They were quietly reading until I entered with my camera. Obviously, these kids are NOT camera shy.

The Arts & Crafts room. It takes several pictures to cover the whole room as we have so many kids spaced out.



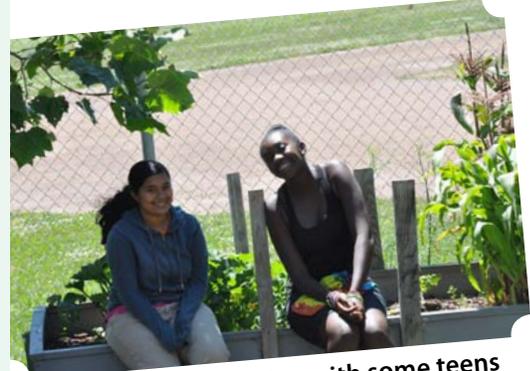
## WEST CONTRA COSTA SALESIAN BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Hi, I hope you are having a fabulous summer! Thought I would send an update to ours. We have been serving lunch to over 215 kids daily. Below are a few pictures for your enjoyment. Have a great 4th of July!

**Judy Reed**

Executive Director  
West Contra Costa  
Salesian Boys & Girls Club  
P.O. Box 6120  
San Pablo, CA 94806  
510-215-4648 (O)  
510-215-4630 (F)  
[www.bgcrcsp.org](http://www.bgcrcsp.org)

About the only shy one's around here is the volunteers and junior staff



Our vegetable garden with some teens



# Technology Education Inspires Passion for Stem Among Middle Schoolers on BOSCO TECH Campus

**Contact: Karen Krynen - E-mail: [kkrynen@boscotech.edu](mailto:kkrynen@boscotech.edu)**

ROSEMEAD, CA—July 5, 2012 – For 150 local elementary and middle school students, Don Bosco Technical Institute’s (Bosco Tech’s) five-week, intensive Tech Scholar program is providing an introduction to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

The unique curriculum includes science workshops, a course in computer science and electrical engineering, and an introductory algebra course. The seventh and eighth grade Tech Scholars, for whom tuition is free, are selected to participate through a competitive process, based on an ap-

titude for, and interest in, science and math.

In its third year, the hands-on, lab-based curriculum has doubled in size amidst rave reviews from participating students and their parents, as well as the students’ elementary and middle schools.

“With exposure to new technology, and the way it has transformed youth culture, we must provide young people with experiences in applied science and math,” explains Rudy Herrera, BoscoTech’s director of ad-

missions, who runs the Tech Scholar program. “We’re are providing a solution to the lack of interest in the sciences, addressing a definite need throughout our country to expose younger kids, specifically minority kids, to STEM education.”

Currently, only 15 percent of U.S. college graduates pursue engineering or computer science degrees, compared to nearly 70 percent in China, India and Eastern Europe. Nationally, STEM programs focus primarily on high school-level education, but through the Tech Scholars program, Bosco Tech is focusing on elementary school-aged children, believing that they will benefit from early exposure to science and technology.

“We want to ignite the imagination and excitement of our young people for the sciences while also providing an essential liberal arts foundation,” says Herrera. “Sixty percent of our recent high school graduating class will major in STEM-related fields next semester in colleges and universities across the country.”

Bosco Tech is the only all-male Catholic high school in the state that uniquely integrates college-preparatory and technology education. The academic curriculum allows students to exceed university admission requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of five technol-



ogy and engineering-related fields: Architecture and Construction Engineering; Computer Science and Electrical Engineering; Integrated Design, Engineering and Art; Materials Science, Engineering and Technology; and Media Arts and Technology. For further information about Bosco Tech, please call (626) 940-2000 or visit [www.boscotech.edu](http://www.boscotech.edu)

**“Youth serving youth.”** It seems as if in this day in age, a statement like that seems to be a matter of fiction. The rising amount of criminal activity between the ages of fourteen to nineteen years old and the stagnant economy has us believing in a darker time for the future generations. Majority of those living in the Los Angeles area believe that many teenagers may be joining a gang or encounter illicit activity sometime during their years as an adolescent. But even in a dark tunnel, there is still a light. Since 1956, St. Dominic Savio has kept that light glowing and has worked to keep Bosco’s teachings alive by establishing the summer day-camp, Camp Savio. Using Bosco’s Preventive System and Oratory Model as a the basis for the camp, Camp S a v i o currently has around two hundred teenagers who have volunteered their summer as Counselors in order to take care of over three hundred campers, in which sixty of them have received scholarships in order to attend the camp. But why would so many teenagers be so excited to take care of so many children? Because at Camp Savio, “youth serving youth” isn’t a work of fiction;



pool, and faith-sharing. On Tuesday, they had a “Savio Theater Day” where the younger children had watched the movie ‘Finding Nemo’ while the older children watched the movie ‘Up.’ The next day, our seventh and the eighth grade boys and girls had a special field trip to St. John Bosco High School, where they had their own private barbecue and picnic. The following day, marked our weekly trip to the beach. Although

# CAMP SAVIO 2012

## St. Dominic Savio Parish



it was colder that day, the campers and counselors continued to enjoy themselves, “I love the waves! They were so big!” says Kevin, a fourth grade camper.

And there is Friday, which is usually a busy day. We begin the day with a morning mass, which was led by Father Tho; both campers and counselors worked together to make the mass possible with the theme “love thy neighbor.” After Mass, the camp went back into regular schedule until the very end when the weekly Spirit Rally was held. The Spirit Rally is a cheer-off between all the grades to see who has the most camp spirit. This week our fourth grade and middle school girls won the spirit stick.

Although our first week of Camp was exhausting, for both counselors and campers, we still look forward to another fun and successful week of camp.

it’s a reality.

Led by Camp Director Juan Carlos Montenegro and Headmaster Taaj Lewis, Camp Savio had a very successful first week. The first day was an introduction day and proceeded with a regular schedule that ranged from activities such as playground,

*“Lord, you know everything;  
You know that I love you.”*

*(John 21:17)*



With gratitude to God

## **The Salesians of Don Bosco**

Of the Province of Saint Andrew the Apostle  
Joyfully Announce the First Profession of

**PETER DUOC LE**

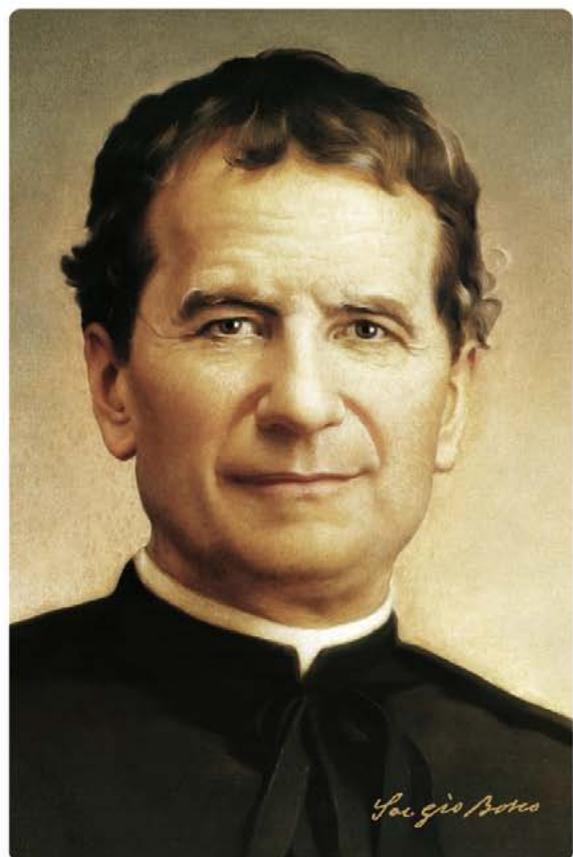
### **The Rite of Religious Profession**

Will be celebrated during Mass  
On Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 6:00pm

At St. Dominic Savio Church  
13400 Bellflower Boulevard,  
Bellflower, CA 90706.

*We would be honored by your presence,  
if not personally, then in spirit and prayer.  
(Reception to follow in the Parish Hall)*

[www.salesianfamily.org/profession2012](http://www.salesianfamily.org/profession2012)  
510.621.3862



## **INTOUCH PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER**



Salesians of St. John Bosco  
1100 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (626) 280-8622 #35  
E-mail: [intouch@salesiansc.org](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org)  
Weekly publications will be  
distributed on Thursdays. Please  
submit news for publication by  
Friday of each week.  
Send contributions to:  
[intouch@salesiansc.org](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org).



## **Please Pray for Our Sick**

**Mr. David Wehrly**  
Board Chairman, St. John Bosco High School  
recovering from spinal surgery

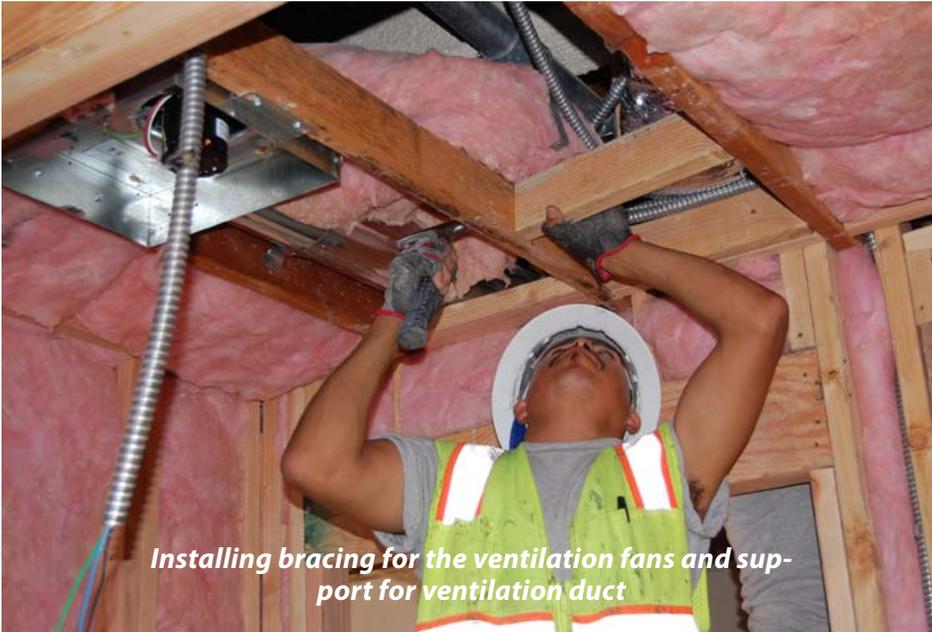


**Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB**  
RECTOR MAJOR



# Progress . . . .

**Brother Joe Lockwood, SDB**



*Installing bracing for the ventilation fans and support for ventilation duct*



*Ventilation duct before wrapping the duct with installation*



*Wrapping the ventilation duct with installation*



*Ventilation fans installed in bathrooms, data rooms, etc.*

With the Fourth of July being in the middle of the week, the building inspectors were not doing any inspections because the City of Bellflower Building and Safety Department was closed. But the rehabbing of the 13856 Bellflower Blvd. continued.

The Mega Air Company is the sub-contractor for ventilation in the bathrooms, closets, data rooms, confessional and the air conditioning. The ventilating fan ducts are now installed. Some of the areas with bracing, pipes, and electrical conduits were so tight that the men had to improvise different ways to run the air ducts. One might ask why they didn't use flex ducts. The answer is that flex ducts do not meet the fire code in a dormitory building.

The carpenters built the vestment closet in the sacristy and the re-

quired boxes around the ventilating fans.

Before applying the stucco to the elevator structure, a moisture barrier must be put on the wood sheathing. The moisture barrier is a black tar paper. Once the structure is wrapped in tar paper the metal lathe, the stucco stops and the corner bead will be nailed to the structure. Now the plasters will begin stuccoing.

Olympia Glass Company tested the window smoke detectors and the detectors worked just great! But when the windows all close at once, there is a loud noise.

All of the underground conduits (electrical, phone, gate opener, etc.) are now in place and the trenches have been backed filled and compacted.

**De  
Sales  
Hall**



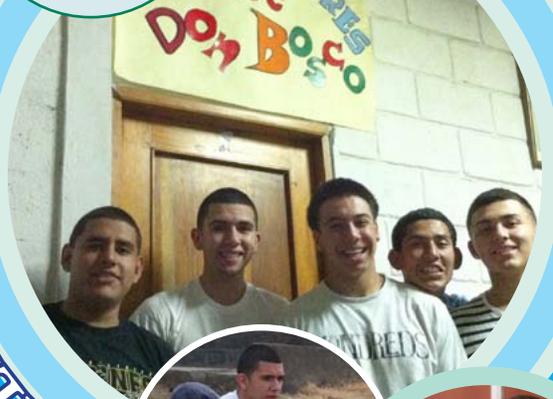
*Elevator tower with black tar paper, stucco stop, metal lathing*

**BISHOP MORA SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**Students:**  
 Marco Anaya,  
 Bernardo Carmona,  
 Julian Guzman, Erick  
 Rodriguez, Enrique  
 Ramirez

# Continuing the Work St. John Bosco Started...

**Paulina Esparza**



A group from Bishop Mora Salesian High School, five students and two teachers just arrived from ten days in Guayaquil, Ecuador- life of a volunteer in Proyecto Salesiano Chicos de la Calle, thanks to the guidance of Juan Carlos Montenegro, Province Delegate for Mission Animation.

I have participated in other missionary experiences, but this was the first time I was able to co-lead a small group of students. Although it was a lot of work to make sure our teenage students were all up by 6:30am for morning mass/laudates and were present to the kids throughout the day for their chores, classes, free time, homework time, soccer, hip hop, evening reflection and asleep by 11:00pm- it was all worth it! St. John Bosco's presence could truly be felt in the oratory, there were beds and hospitality for those kids that didn't have a place to call home; there were classes on not just basic education but personal hygiene and citizenship as well. There was a constant sense of playtime whenever there was down time, even though soccer was one of their most favorite playground activi-

ties. But stay longer as a volunteer. Which is a blessing, because sites that take on the ministry of working with street kids operate on volunteers staying for long periods of time-which they were desperately in need of more! When we arrived, four volunteers had just left, leaving the site short staffed. One of our goals is by doing these trips, our boys will come back on fire with Don Bosco's spirit to do more for those around us, and hopefully more students will respond to a year of missionary service.

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**Paulina Esparza**

CYM, Bishop Mora Salesian High School

I witnessed our Salesian High School boys bond and make friendships with not only the boys in the center, but the volunteers as well. During our evening reflections, many of our boys shared their inspirations to do more in their local communities. Sometimes we need to be taken out of our comfort zones to realize how blessed we are, and how we are gifted beyond measures to make a difference in our local communities. One of our students even committed to coming back next summer to



**Teachers:**  
 Mia Aguilar, Paulina Esparza



## Salesian Family Days An Opportunity for Formation and Fellowship

This October the Salesian Family will gather for a Salesian day of formation. Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB, STD, will be the speaker.

- on October 13 at St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower, CA, and Salesian High School, Richmond, CA.
- on October 27 at St. John Bosco School, San Antonio, Texas

Fr. Joe will be live at St. John Bosco High School and at the other sites via internet broadcast. To prepare for Salesian Family Day we offer a series of reflections on the nature and origin of the Salesian Family.



### The Salesian Family the Genius of Don Bosco

By: Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB

#### Don Bosco's First Assignment

Don Joseph Cafasso was Don Bosco's teacher, friend and mentor. He saw in the young priest a potential that Don Bosco himself did not recognize. When Don Bosco approached him for advice and help in finding a in which parish to serve, Don Cafasso advised him to wait until something presented itself. Don Cafasso was convinced that over time God would show Don Bosco what was expected of him. The waiting was not passive but rather Don Cafasso actively sought out possibilities that would let Don Bosco develop his ministry to the young.

While still a student at the Convitto, Don Bosco gathered youngsters there in the rooms and courtyard of the Convitto. Don Guala and Don Cafasso both encouraged him and often joined Don Bosco and his "Oratory" talking to the boys and helping with small gifts and reading material for the children. While Don Bosco seemed to be developing a ministry which would accompany him to his "real assignment."

One day, Father Cafasso took me aside and said, "Now that you've finished your studies, you must get to work..."

*"Whatever you would like to point me towards."*

"There are three posts open: curate at Buttigliera d'Asti, tutor in moral theology here at the Convitto, and director at the little hospital beside the Refuge. Which would you choose?"

*"Whatever you judge best."*

"Don't you feel any preference for one thing rather than for another?"

*"My inclination is to work for young people. So do with me whatever you want..."*

"At the moment what's the wish nearest your heart? What's on your mind?"

*"At this moment I see myself in the midst of a multitude of boys appealing to me for help."*

"Then go away for a few weeks' holiday. When you come back I'll tell you your destination."

*I came back from the holiday, but for several weeks Fr Cafasso never said a word. And I asked him nothing.*

One day he said to me, "Why don't you ask me about your destination?"

*"Because I want to see the will of God in your choice, and I don't want my desires in it at all."*

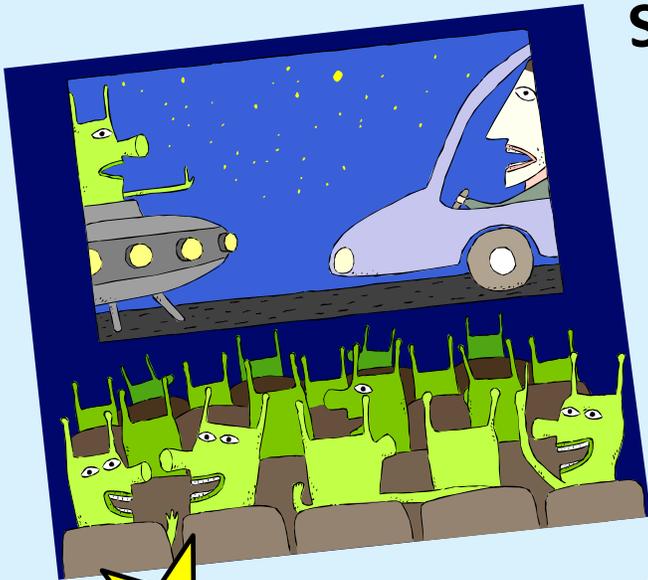
"Pack your bag and go with Dr. Borrelli. You'll be director at the Little Hospital of St. Philomena, and you'll also work in the Refuge. Meanwhile God will show you what you have to do for the young."

*At first this advice seemed to cut across my inclinations. With a hospital to take care of, preaching and confessions in an institute for more than four hundred girls, there would be no time for anything else. Nevertheless this was the will of heaven, as I was soon assured<sup>1</sup>*

This series is titled, *The Salesian Family the **Genius** of Don Bosco*. In the incident above Don Bosco does not stand out as much of a *genius*, but rather as one who is not very sure of himself, which is, in fact, his genius. Don Bosco is an insightful person who is able to see in simple terms very complex situations. He processes reality through his life experience, a keen and active intuition, and a focus which sees solutions where answers seem not apparent. He genius prompts him ask for and accept advice. This acceptance will lead him to the discovery of the genius of the Salesian Family.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid: *Memoirs* pg. 108-109





St. Joseph Retreat Center

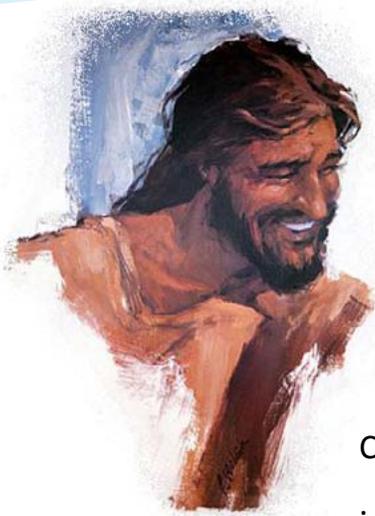
Presents...

Family Movie Nights  
Under the Stars!

Wednesday Nights

July 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 8, 15

\$5 Dinner & Fun at 6:00, Movie starts @ 6:30 **BRING:** lawn chair or blanket,  
\$5 for dinner & drink, \$1 for desserts; Movies are FREE - All rated G or PG  
St. Joseph's Salesian Youth Renewal Center 8301 Arroyo Drive, Rosemead, CA 91770 (626)280-8622



## Kindle the Creative Spirit

A Woman's Retreat

Friday, August 10 – Sunday August 12, 2012 For All Women Ages 21+

Hosted by St. Joseph's Salesian Youth Renewal Center

*Do you love Music? Color? Doodling? Movement? Photography?  
Beautiful Textures? The Sound of the Wind? Journaling? Gardening?*

Come Discover, Claim and Celebrate the Creative Side of your Spirit  
... through Prayer Experiences, Activities, Movement, Journal Writing,  
and enjoying time with other women on a Spiritual path.

Facilitated by Lisa Dreyer, Judy Alvarez, Val MacRae, Katherine Mancuso. Call for info today! (626) 280-8622

"Rejoice in the Lord always...  
Again, I say rejoice!"  
Phil 4:4

