



Provincial's **Letter**

January 10, 2013

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

With this Sunday's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord we come to the end of the Christmas season. Jesus was born among us, he took on our flesh, in order to save us by the public ministry he began immediately upon coming out of the waters of the River Jordan. By his baptism in the river, by his death on the cross, by his three days in the tomb, and by his glorious resurrection, Jesus is our savior!

These last few days of the Christmas season correspond with the end of **National Migration Week**. And the first dew days of Ordinary Time, after the Feast of the Lord's Baptism, correspond with the start of **National Vocation Awareness Week**

(January 13-19).

The ministry that Jesus begins after his baptism is a ministry of vocation awareness! All throughout his public ministry Jesus is keenly aware that his own life on earth is a gift from God to him and to us. His life on earth is God's call to him to offer his life back to the Father as a gift, which he does to the last drop of his blood on the cross. And the ministry that Jesus begins after his baptism is a ministry of vocation awareness for all of us too. He preaches the Good News and invites us all to follow him. Evangelization and vocation awareness are linked together inseparably.

On a practical note I am happy to announce that upon the advice of the DeSales Hall local council and with the consent of the provincial council I have accepted two of our candidates as pre novices. **Filiberto Cortez** and **Benito Guerrero** will spend the next eight months as pre novices, preparing for and testing their option to become novices this August. Thanks be to God! And congratulations

to Filiberto and Benito for seeing their lives as a call from God, like Jesus'. Congratulations to Filiberto and Benito for being willing, like Don Bosco, to hand over their lives to Jesus for the salvation of the young.

If all goes well, the DeSales Hall community will finally be able to move in to their renovated community residence this week. At last! And what an appropriate time it is, right after the Lord's baptism, during Vocation Awareness Week, and just 10 days or so before the feast of the community's patron, St. Francis DeSales.

I invite the entire province community to live Vocation Awareness Week with attention and purpose. Let us all recommit ourselves to the Salesian vocation we have received. And let's dust off our community vocation plans. It's always a good time for this kind of effort to create and promote a vocation culture, but especially in Don Bosco's month and Vocation Awareness Week.

Sincerely,

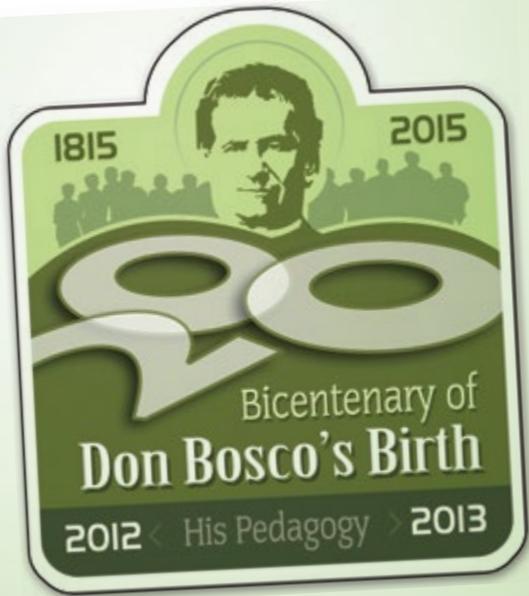
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim".

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB

Provincial



Congratulations to Benito and Filiberto for being willing, like Don Bosco, to hand over their lives to Jesus for the salvation of the young. *Fr. Tim Ploch, sdb*



LIKE DON BOSCO THE EDUCATOR,
WE OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE THE GOSPEL
OF JOY THROUGH A
PEDAGOGY OF KINDNESS

REDISCOVERING THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM
Thinking about Don Bosco's experience as an
educator, we are called to bring it to life again
faithfully in our day. We are all certainly con-
vinced that in some of its particular expres-
sions and interpretations, his Preventive Sys-
tem appears to be decidedly "dated," insofar
as it is linked to a world that no longer exists.

► Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB
STRENNNA 2013



PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR



January 2013

- 10-11 Office Days
- 12 San Francisco Salesian Boys
and Girls Club Crab Feed
- 13-15 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
- 24-26 Office Days

January
month of
Don Bosco



tweet with the Rector Major

January 4, 2013 – Salesian GHQ

Tweet with the Rector Major: PascualChavez

(ANS – Rome) – Several days ago the Rector Major became a “friend” of Twitter. By joining one of the most popular social networks, referencing some of his messages, Fr. Chavez wants to “create synergy for the good, for the great causes of the young like Don Bosco” and “circulate better values over a wider range.”

His contact - @ PascualChavez5 - is open to all and is available in Italian, English, Spanish, and French. He personally responds to the messages and interacts with Salesians, laity, and young people, with his customary friendliness.

“A little word in the ear” or a “thought for the Good Night”? The structure of this social network adapts in new ways these two Salesian pedagogical practices of Don Bosco himself at Valdocco – practices still alive in the everyday actions of anyone inspired by his charism.

The persona of a young Christian as someone who:

Fr. Pascual Chavez



- ♥ lives life as a vocation;
- ♥ is able to be silent, to listen to the voice of God;
- ♥ is open to hope and optimism;
- ♥ is known as a person of communion, dialog, acceptance, and collaboration;
- ♥ lives his daily commitments with maturity and seriousness;
- ♥ hears and participates in the great aspirations and perspectives of humanity and of the Church.

PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Changes at Salesian High School, Richmond

Effective January 7, 2013

Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB

Director and CYM



Sr. Mary Greenan, FMA

Ass't. Principal for Student Life

*by appointment of President Fr. Nick Reina
and Principal Tim Chambers*



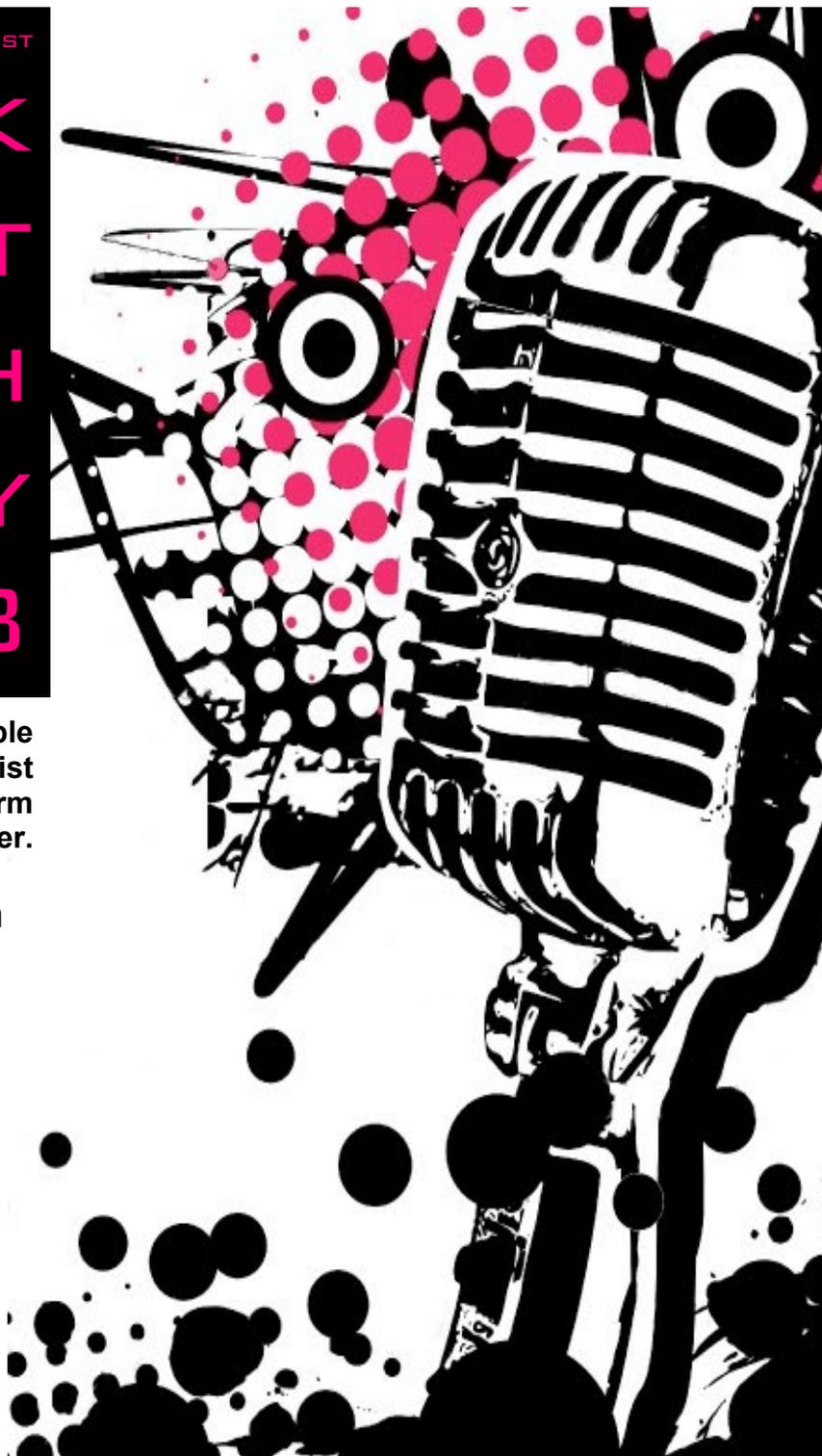
The ministry that Jesus begins after his baptism is a ministry of vocation awareness! All throughout his public ministry Jesus is keenly aware that his own life on earth is a gift from God to him and to us.
Fr. Tim Ploch, sdb

SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT USA WEST

ROCK OUT YOUTH POVERTY 2013

Empowering young people
to respond with the eyes of Christ
to immigration reform
through music, dialogue, and prayer.

- 1:30 PM Registration/Check-in
- 2:00 Welcome
- Opening Prayer
- Keynote
- 3:00 "Walk in My Shoes"
- Activity
- 5:00 Discussion and
Debriefing
- 5:30 Dinner
- Bands
- Exhibits
- 7:30 Closing Prayer
- 8:00 Dismissal



SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013
SALESIAN FAMILY YOUTH CENTER
2228 EAST 4TH STREET, LOS ANGELES
ADMISSION: \$10.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [SDBYOUTH@SALESIANYM.ORG](mailto:sdbyouth@salesianym.org)

BOSCO TECH TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

ON JANUARY 27



ROSEMEAD, CA. – January 7, 2013 - Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will host its Open House on Sunday, January 27, 2013, from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Prospective students, their families and members of the community can tour the school's extensive applied-science technology labs where unmanned aerial vehicles and competitive programmed robots will be featured. Laboratory science displays and engineering demonstrations will also be available for viewing.

“We understand that choosing a high school is not an easy process,” said Rudy Herrera, the school's Director of Admissions. “Events like this expose prospective students to the exciting things a technology-based high school has to offer. If a student is thinking about becoming a doctor, engineer, architect or working in one of the emerging green technologies, Bosco Tech should be a school on his list.”

A Catholic Mass will precede the Open House in the school's Fr. Felix Penna chapel at 9:30 a.m. During the service, the current freshman class will receive their class ties, presented by the school's alumni association. The association will host a breakfast for all returning alumni following the Mass.

Bosco Tech is California's only Catholic high school with an integrated applied science and engineering program, uniquely blending a college-preparatory course load with a comprehensive, four-year, project-based science and technology program. The curriculum allows students to exceed university admission requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of several 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.

CONTACT: KAREN KRYNEN
PHONE: (626) 392-9967
KKRYNEN@BOSCOTECH.EDU
WWW.BOSCOTECH.EDU

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
1151 SAN GABRIEL BOULEVARD
ROSEMEAD, CA 91770-4251
WWW.BOSCOTECH.EDU
(626) 940-2000

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.

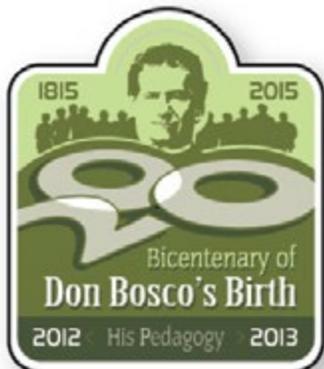
We begin with insights from this November’s gathering of Salesian scholars in Turin, we get a sneak preview of what is to come in future study guides that focus on Don Bosco’s spirituality.

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



Salesian Volunteer

PERSEVERANCE

Jessie Smith

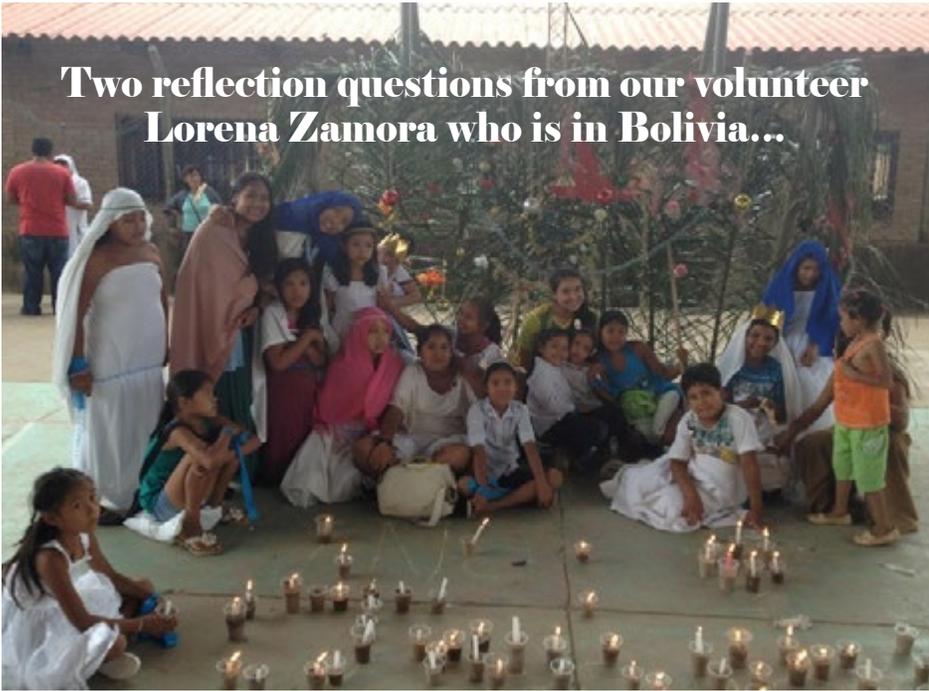


I have another story of a beautiful person that I met. This young woman who uses a wheelchair I had seen several times after mass roll herself up to the large image of the Virgen de Guadalupe in the front of our church and spend several moments in prayer. This always caught my eye because she is a very beautiful young woman only about 18 years old and she seemed very faithful. Just the other week we ended up going to her house to have a meal. It was there that they told Father Francisco and I her story. Just 2 years ago she had

been a normal teenager like all the other youth who play soccer, sing in the choir, and participate in our oratory. She herself was a very active member of the oratory. It ended up that she began to have bad headaches and they found a brain tumor and had to operate. After the operation she was no longer able to talk or even to walk. She had to relearn all her speech and movement. Along with the help of her supportive parents and siblings she is now able to speak very well and is just starting to walk using a cane. She seems incred-

ibly motivated because she is also sticking with her studies in order to graduate highschool. This really struck me because many people here loose motivation with their schooling after 5th grade and often times don't finish their highschool degree. Hearing her story and seeing how far she had come along with enjoying her company and sense of humor and kindness at the table really inspired me. I was really thankful to God for her example in my life. I hope to get to know her more as the year goes on.

Two reflection questions from our volunteer
Lorena Zamora who is in Bolivia...



What are the gifts that Christ has given to me in this Christmas season?

The biggest gifts that Christ has given me this Christmas season are patience and acceptance, as well as happiness and the gift of service. It really felt like a special Christmas this year. A Christmas that I will never forget, a Christmas that I will experience once in my life time.

This year Christmas really felt like it was about baby Jesus and not about the presents and all the consumerism that I am use to in the States. It actually felt kind of nice not having to shop for everyone I know back home. I just had to worry about my three site partners here in Okinawa, Bolivia. And we didn't have to give each other extravagant gifts like I'm usually use to giving, just a simple pair of cheap earrings or a keychain or a pack of marshmallows made us happy.

What I absolutely loved was having dinner with a poor family that the Salesian Sisters here choose from the outskirts of Okinawa. The family enjoyed their dinner, they were shy but very appreciative and they enjoyed the Christmas gifts the sisters gave them, some toys and most importantly food. After that we went to Mass and it felt so special. People here don't decorate so extremely like in the states, but they do have nativity scenes everywhere. The focus is always about baby Jesus and no one else.

Every night before Christmas Eve we would pray a novena alongside the Sisters and people from the community. It was so great; it really reminded me every night about what we were preparing for...the coming of Jesus Christ. It was so spiritually filling and I really took advantage and prayed for my family and friends back home. All in all, it was a simple Christmas but a very special one.

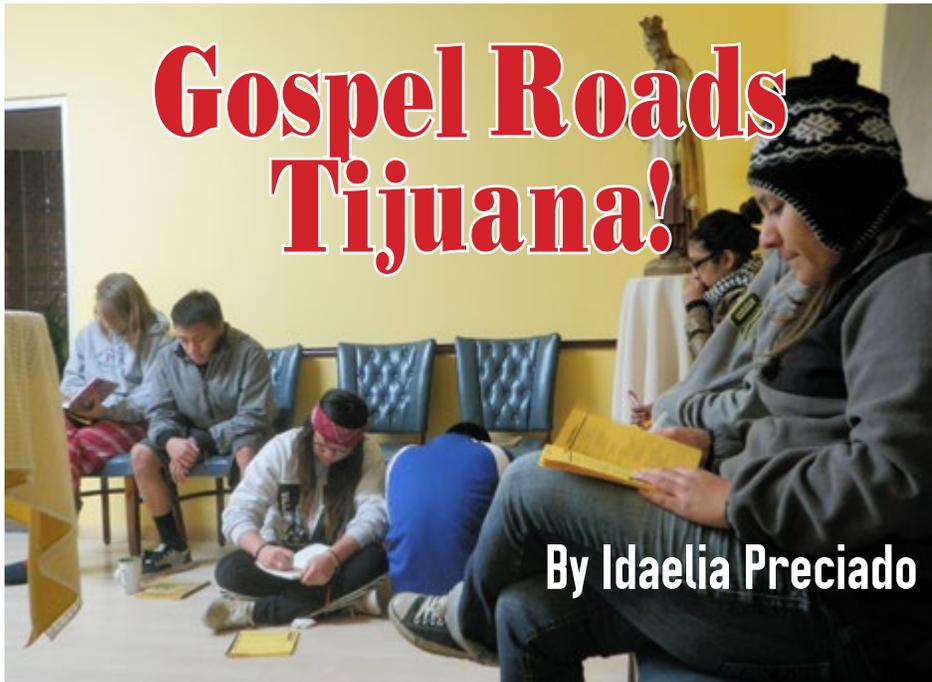
How do I feel about sacrificing yourself for God?

It feels great. But I also feel that I am no super hero or someone so amazing doing God's work. I'm just showing the love that HE taught me and sharing it among others. But I feel so great sacrificing myself for God and for others. I'm beginning to feel somewhat complete inside, like I'm filling up something in my heart that was missing before. I am so glad I made this choice, and I don't regret it one bit. Of course it is very hard sometimes, but that is also what makes this journey so worthwhile, because I'm learning so much about myself and becoming a braver woman for it. I wouldn't change this experience for the world. =)



Gospel Roads Tijuana!

By **Idaelia Preciado**



mingo Savio.” It inspires me how the people from this oratory have the calling to serve others without expecting anything in return.

What I learned from this trip was how to be a good Christian by being an active member in faith, action and love. This trip has helped me to realize how we can be love bearers to others. Just like Psalm 63 clearly explains, “For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.”

Participating in the Tijuana Mission Trip 2012 was one of the most inspiring and uplifting experiences I have ever had. What I felt in Tijuana was a sense of family with two common grounds: the love for God and living examples of Don Bosco today. I was impressed of how welcomed I felt at the “Oratorio San Francisco De Sales.” The volunteers, staff and priest were a true reflection of Don Bosco today. I loved their wise words during the “good nights” and the energy and interest they had towards us. But most importantly, I loved how during prayer time we all shared the same love for God. During those minutes there was no distinction between priest and lay people. We were there gathered as a Salesian family sharing and honoring the presence of God amongst each other through prayer.

Furthermore, the people of Tijuana inspired me. It was inspiring to see their dedication to their work despite their circumstances. Among these people was a man named “Don Lazaro” who had a

hard life struggling with alcohol. This struggle with alcohol caused him to lose his family. However, it was amazing to hear his story of struggle turned into a story of God’s love. Don Lazaro believed that God transformed his life for the better and now he dedicates his time at the “Oratorio de Santo Do-



Dear Salesian Family:

I just want to share with you some news from our Mission Animation Office

- 1.- We have two more volunteers working in our Province
- 2.- New video and pictures from our Gospel Roads Tijuana
- 3.- We need volunteers - Please help us recruiting
- 4.- January 12, 2013 – Second Meeting with the Animation Teams from Youth Ministry Social Communication and Mission Animation.
- 5.- Trip to Rome

1.- First of all I would like to welcome Armando Prieto, our new volunteer from Venezuela, who is volunteering in Richmond for one year. Armando arrived on January 6th in Richmond. I would like to also welcome Stephanie Gasper from Wisconsin who is volunteering in Tijuana for 6 months. She arrived in Tijuana on December 26th. To the two of you, welcome and thank you for your commitment to the Salesian Mission. Please know that will be praying for you both!

2.- On January 4th our group of young adults came back from Tijuana, we had an amazing experience. To watch the video and the pictures please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/salesianvolunteers you can also watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvA1xLTJGzc&feature=share&list=UUvaliWlmvPyUXk6z6brXGBQ>

3.- At this point we have two volunteers for next year, we need at least 6 people to keep providing volunteers to the communities where we already have volunteers. Please help us to promote our volunteer program. Here are some ideas how:

If you are at a school, please ask the religion teachers to show any of our videos and to reflect upon them. If you are at a parish show any of our videos to the youth groups and ask them to reflect upon them. To watch all the videos that we have about our program you can visit our YouTube account at www.youtube.com/kawarim. Lastly, you can also invite me to come and speak to your young people regarding the missions.

4.- On January 12, 2013 the three Animation Teams from Youth Ministry, Social Communications and Missions will meet for the second time to talk about ways on how we can serve the province. Please keep this meeting in your prayers.

5.- I have been invited to be part of the Salesian World Wide Mission Animation Council Team. So I will be going to this meeting in Turin. Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep my province in mine.

I think that is it for now, let's keep transforming this world. Make a difference! Jc



What was the result of the January 3, 2013 inspection?

By: Brother Joseph Lockwood, SDB

Well, Mr. Christopoulos from the City of Bellflower met with us as planned at 11:30 am on January 3, 2013. The result from the meeting was that some of the doors were not in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) in regards to access to buildings (also known as Title III Public Accommodations).

The regulations state that an exit slope from a doorway has a fall of 1/4" per foot. That means that for every foot, the slope lowers by a 1/4". The south side dining room and chapel exterior (exit) doors are not in compliance with ADA regulations. Also the sliding glass door, the eastside of the dining room has a 1 1/4" step down. The two common bathrooms on the second and third floor are not in compliance with the ADA regulations.

Add to this, the new lighting fixtures both on the second and third floors obscures the four exit sign.

Mr. Christopoulos suggested that we apply for a "temporary occupancy permit". Allowing us to move into the building with the understanding that within a date specified by the Bellflower

Building and Safety Department that we would make the corrections as spelled out in his letter accompanying the temporary permit.

When a building receives its permanent conditional occupancy permit, not only the owner of the building but also the city that issued the permit becomes liable to any law suits or fines. It is the city's responsibility to make sure that the building is in compliance with the building code and ADA regulations (Title III Public Accommodations).



Bathroom entrance: The elevation of the bathroom floor and the hallway floor are not in compliance with ADA regulations.



Patio Door: The difference of elevation between the dining room floor and the patio area is 1 3/4". The ADA regulation states that the fall between the two elevations is 1/4" per foot. Not in ADA compliance.

HUMAN LIFE AS A SPIDER WEB

'If you touch it anywhere, you set the whole thing trembling - The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place and time my touch will be felt. Our lives are linked. No man, no woman, is an island.'

The gift of friendship with others is contagious.

*From 'A Canopy of Stars'
Fr. Christopher Gleeson SJ*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Fr. Steve Dumais's dad, Lawrence, has become seriously ill, and Steve's brother Larry advised him yesterday to come to Phoenix.

Fr. Steve is out there now. He and the family appreciate your prayers.

Fr. Mike Mendl



VINCENT GUILLEN
Salesian Boys & Girls Club
of Los Angeles
double pneumonia and
heart attack



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



**Bro. Xavier "Dave" Verrett, SDB
(SUE)**

January 3, 2013
Tampa, FL
aged 88

Care Ministry

By Louis Kun, Care Ministry

The parishioners at St. Joseph's in Rosemead kicked off the New Year by remembering the Mexican tradition on the Feast of the Epiphany. We were treated after Mass with the special bread prepared for the occasion. Whoever bit into "Baby Jesus" would host the fellowship event for February 3, 2013. So the fun went on, searching for Baby Jesus amidst pieces of delicious pastry. For many of us old timers from St. Joseph, our morning had started with a special treat: among the church goers, Fr. Carmine stood tall and proud, glad to be with family friends, the Villalobos Family, who brought him back for a Sunday outing. Fr. Carmine co-celebrated Mass with Fr. Chris. His broad smile ushered in the sunshine through the stained glasses. I told myself: "Search no more, we have our treasure among us today – a holy man, a dedicated Salesian". Thank you, Samuel and William, for making our Epiphany one of the most memorable days by honoring our senior Salesian. Can you locate Fr. Carmine from the sea of smiling faces?

