

INTOUCH

San Francisco Province Newsletter

Building Bridges between Communities

June 29, 2009



Salesians of St. John Bosco

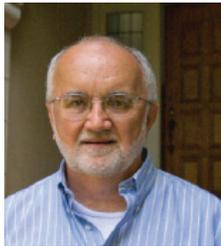
SAN FRANCISCO PROVINCE

Salesians serve youth the world over!

June 28, 2009

Dear Salesians of the West:

On coming to the West I was really looking forward to learning more about the **S Programs**. I knew they were a constellation of programs for the joint formation of ourselves, our lay collaborators and our young people in the Salesian style of life and activity, formation in Salesian Youth Spirituality, a spirituality for all of us together. These past few days I finally had the chance to participate, or at least get some feel, for three of them.



SEES (Salesian Elementary Education Seminar). This seminar took place at Richmond two weeks ago. It involved Salesian educators from a number of the elementary schools where our Salesian Sisters are the animators. I took part in the concluding prayer moment and distributed the certificates.

SES (Salesian Education Seminar). This one is for educators in our high schools. I took part in the entire week and learned a lot. There were teachers and administrators and even one Board member from each of the five schools where we SDBs are the animators. Facilitators and presenters included Sr. Mary Greenan, Fr. Nick Reina, Fr. Arthur Lenti, Keith Matthews and John Marheineke from St. Francis High School, two recent graduates from Salesian High,

Richmond, and others. It was a lived experience of the Oratory. The educators were made to feel at **HOME** there at Don Bosco Hall and every other Salesian site they visited. The whole week was a **SCHOOL** where we learned so much more about Don Bosco and his method, and how to live and practice these learnings in our schools. As a **PARISH** we prayed formally and spontaneously and felt the Gospel come to life, especially in the journey icon of Luke's Emmaus story. And **PLAYGROUND** it certainly was, thanks to the hospitality of the Don Bosco Hall community, the outings planned, the great weather, and everyone's cheerful smiles.

SYLC (Salesian Youth Leadership Conference). The final day for the SESers brought them to Camp St. Francis for a morning of interaction and joint formation with the young people from all over the province, and also from some non Salesian parishes. These well chosen young people took part in an intense week of youth leadership training. They too had an Oratory experience. They too are fired up to go back to their sites and "*Journey Together with the Young to Hear the Voice of God.*" Our Youth Ministry Department, under the

excellent leadership of **Br. Al Vu** and **Judy Alvarez**, assembled an amazing group of Salesian leaders and Spirit Team young leaders to make SYLC 2009 an unforgettable and life changing experience for all those who took part and for the young they will serve.

And now this week about half of the SDBs will have another **S Program**, their Spiritual Retreat! Let's pray for one another.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Ploch, SDB
Provincial

We join in spirit a
Eucharist of Thanksgiving
marking the union of the
Canadian Vice Province
with the
Eastern United State Province
and the
Installation of
Fr. Thomas Dunne
as the
18th Provincial
that will be held on
Wednesday, July 1, 2009
at 5 o'clock PM
at
148 Main Street
New Rochelle, New York

Chronology of a Century

Fr. Mario Mich

1961

January 10: At the Provincial Council meeting at Salesian High, Los Angeles, two new consultants were added: **Fr. John Malloy**, Director of Salesian High in L.A. and **Fr. Alfred Broccardo**, Director of Salesian High at Richmond. They were replacing **Fr. Arthur Grisetti** and **Rev. Attilio Giovannini**. Fr. Cogliandro gave special responsibilities to each consultant which were to be defined gradually. **Fr. David Zunino** was to be in charge of parishes. **Fr. John Malloy** of the field of education. **Fr. Alfred Broccardo** of spiritual matters; and **Fr. Gabriel Zavattaro** of financial matters.

Sketches were submitted by St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower for a new gymnasium. Corrections were suggested and submitted to the Architects. The total cost of building the gym and other facilities and of covering the present swimming pool will be about \$300,000.

A decision was made to build a new unit (dormitory) at St. Joseph Juniorate in Rosemead to supply quarters for confreres, aspirants and week-end retreats at the cost of \$85,000.

February 10-13: Vocation Retreat in Watsonville for 143 boys from catholic schools of San Francisco. Oakland, San Jose and nearby localities. This retreat, as all the others held before, has the double scope of giving the boys a chance of making a good

confession and of considering the possibility of a vocation to the Salesian life. Fr. Larry Byrne was the moderator of this spiritual event.

February 15: Fr. Archimedes Pianazzi, from the Salesian Superior Council responsible for Salesian schools all over the world arrived back in San Francisco. After visiting the Houses of the Province he met with the Provincial Council.

March 10: At St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower a meeting of Salesian Directors was held with **Fr. John Antal**, Catechist General of the Salesians. Fr. Antal was on his way to Mexico for the canonical visitation of that Province.

April 28: A solemn celebration was held in the Church of Mary Help of Christians, Oakland, on the occasion of the **Diamond Jubilee** of ordination to the priesthood of **Fr. Anthony Ragona**. The Jubilarian had been pastor of this church for a period of more than 30 years. It was a tribute from the Portuguese population among whom Padre Antonio had worked the most.

April 29: The Provincial Council decided today that (1) the aspirants of St. Joseph Juniorate in Rosemead spend their summer vacation at Camp Salesian in Middletown and (2) classes for aspirants who failed entrance tests at the Tech, should be held at Salesian High over the objection of the Director **Fr. Albert Negri**.

May 8: St. Francis Seminarists in Watsonville celebrated the **Diamond Jubilee of Ordination** to the Priesthood of their confessor **Fr. Anthony Ragona** with a solemn High Mass in the Parish church of Mary Help of Christians in Watsonville.

Fr. Joseph Simeoni delivered the sermon for the occasion. After the Mass, which was celebrated at 4:00 pm, all were invited to a delicious dinner prepared by the Salesian Sisters.

What's Happening

Fr. Tim's Calendar
June 2009

28-7/3 Confreres Retreat,
Three Rivers

July 2009

- 4 Personal Day
- 5 Spanish Mass, St. Ambrose
Holiday Barbecue, Richmond
- 6-8 Office Days
- 9 Piperni and Rinaldi Trusts
Meeting
- 10 Office Day
- 11 Quinceañera, St. Ambrose
- 12 Spanish Mass, St. Ambrose

Coming Birthdays

- July 24 - Chinh Nguyen
- July 26 - Chuyen Nguyen
- July 29 - Austin Conterno

Intouch

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Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

- June 28-July 3 - Salesian Retreat - Three Rivers**
- July 5- August 1 - Camp St. Francis Open
- July 7 - Bl. Maria Romero Meneses
- July 7 - Trusts Mtg. Provincial Office
- July 10 -14 Provincial Council Mtg. Aptos
- August 2-7 - Salesian Retreat - San Juan Bautista
- August 12-13 - Provincial Council Mtg. St. John Bosco, Bellflower

Salesian Retreat

June 28 to July 3, 2009

Keep the retreatants
in your prayers
this week.

Fr. Chavez Feastday June 24

It was **Fr. Alberto Lorenzelli**, Provincial of the Special Circumscription of Central Italy (ICC), who opened the proceedings for the feast of the Rector Major as with heartfelt words he welcomed the representatives of the various groups of the Salesian Family gathered June 24 in the theater of the parish of Our Lady of Hope in Rome, the parish church at the UPS.



In the middle of the Hall was the IX successor of Don Bosco, **Fr. Pascual Chávez**, surrounded by the members of the General Council, by the Provincials of Italy and by those who had just completed their course of formation. Also among those present were **Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga**, archbishop of Tegucigalpa and titular of the church of Our Lady of Hope, **Bishop José Angel Divassón Cilveti**, Vicar Apostolic of Puerto Ayacucho, **Mother Yvonne Reungoat**, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and a large number of Salesians and young people.

Fr. Adriano Bregolin, Vicar of the Rector Major, addressed words of special thanks to Fr. Chávez on behalf of the members of the General Council, of the Congregation and of the Salesian Family. Called to take on the role of successor of Don Bosco, Fr. Chávez had managed to reflect him in a variety of ways especially in his "word" strong, profound and efficacious. Fr. Bregolin recalled how from the beginning of his period in office, through his Circular Letters, the Rector Major had been the champion of unity, the promoter of the Salesian apostolic mission and of a profound rediscovery and re-launching of Consecrated Life. Concluding, in the name of all Salesians and members of the Salesian Family, Fr. Bregolin declared: "Today we are being invited to congratulate the Don Bosco who is in heaven and the 'Don Bosco' who is among us."

"I want to speak to you as Mother Mazzarello used to speak to Don Bosco," **Mother Reungoat** said imaginatively as she introduced her short expression of thanks for the support and the teaching which Fr. Chávez offers the Institute of the FMA, as he did in a particular way at the Sisters last General Chapter. "We thank you Father," the Superior of the FMA said, "for reminding us that

we have to lead the young to Christ, and at the same time that it is they who help us on our own journey towards the Lord."

The young were represented by Michele Zecchin, National Coordinator of the Salesian Youth Movement in Italy.

The next to speak was **Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga** who, on behalf of the Salesian Cardinals and Bishops gave thanks for Fr. Chávez's constant commitment to his animation of the Salesian Congregation.

The gratitude and thanks became "Eucharist," at which the Rector Major presided, for the Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist; and a large number fervently participated. The spiritual presence of Don Bosco was re-enforced by the presence of the urn containing a special relic of Don Bosco, which in these days has been in the parish of Our Lady of Hope.

The first thought expressed by Fr. Chávez in his homily was that of gratitude to God for having given Don Bosco to the world and to the Church. Then turning to the urn as though speaking to the Father and teacher of youth the Rector Major thanked Don Bosco for all that he had done for poor and needy boys. A Father who knew how to listen and to recognise the needs of the young and to act with regard to their rights which in those days were not respected by society nor often even by ministers of the church.

"The inheritance entrusted to the whole Salesian Family," Fr. Chávez recalled, "is that of responding to youngsters of today as Don Bosco did to the spoken and unspoken needs of his boys; to defend the young people of today in their fundamental rights, which are often confused within pseudo passing values. The real task for the "Salesian" consecrated lay person is that, above all, of presenting Christ to them so that they meet him personally; Salesian activity cannot be limited to social work, but needs to be, by its very nature, evangelising.

Don Bosco's Three Drivers

(ANS – Rome) – June 25, on the occasion of the presence of the urn containing a special relic of Don Bosco at the Generalate a remarkable meeting took place, that of the three "drivers" of the saint of youth.



Br. Renato Celato SDB, **Mr. Salvatore Taddei** and **Mr. Aldisi Giuseppe**, in different times and circumstances have had the occasion to drive the transport on which the urn travelled.

Br. Renato Celato in fact on two occasions: the first on May 13, 1945, when the casket of Don Bosco and that of Mother Mazzarello were returned to Turin from Colle Don Bosco to where they had been removed for fear that the bombing of the city during the Second World War might damage them; and on April 19, 1959 when Don Bosco's casket was taken to Rome on the occasion of the consecration of the basilica at Cinecittà.

Mr. Taddei, on the other hand, has been the driver of the truck which from April 25 until yesterday has taken the urn to the various Salesian houses in Lazio. "For me it has been an honor to have been Don Bosco's driver, we've almost become friends. Now I'm rather sorry to leave him!"

Finally, **Mr. Aldisi**, is the driver who in the next few days will travel with the urn on the way to Chile where, on July 2 the pilgrimage of the relic will start and continue until February 2014.

The meeting between the three drivers was a friendly straight forward affair. Mr. Taddei and Mr. Aldisi showed Br. Celato the technical "secrets" of the new truck fitted out specifically to carry the urn.

In the evening the Rector Major had presided at Mass attended by many representatives of local religious communities. Later, at the end of a prayer vigil, the urn left for Milan where following customs procedures it will be put on a plane on the way to Chile.

On the site of Missioni Don Bosco – www.missionidonbosco.tv – videos are available of the various stages of the urn's journey during the last two months, and shortly one of its visit to the Generalate will appear there too.

Remembering Don Rua

(ANS - Rome) – In a short letter addressed to all Salesians, the Rector Major **Fr. Pascual Chávez** officially announces the celebration of the centenary of the death of the first successor of Don Bosco, **Blessed Michael Rua**.

The commemorative year will begin on January 31, 2010 and conclude on the same day in 2011, the day on which with the death of Don Bosco in 1888 “Don Rua took the tiller, to continue the journey on which the Founder had embarked.”

As Fr. Chávez points out, for the Salesians 2010 will be “a continuation of this present jubilee year; it will help us to bring to fuller maturity our consecrated Salesian vocation.” The Rector Major indicates for the Salesians three “focal points” to be borne in mind for spiritual and pastoral planning for the coming year, at personal, community and Province level, promising to develop them further in a future letter.

Don Rua, “*the faithful disciple of Jesus in the footsteps of Don Bosco,*” is for each Salesian the model in order to “*preserve fidelity to the vocation of consecration,*” a fidelity which needs nourishing by drawing “deeply from the wells of the life of the disciple and of the apostle, from the fountains of fidelity to our vocation: Sacred Scripture, through ‘lectio divina’ and the Eucharist.”

The second “point” indicated by Fr. Chávez is inspired by the commitment Don Rua assumed: “In Mirabello I shall try to be Don Bosco.” The Salesian Religious Constitutions, whose importance and spirit need to be rediscovered, are the point of reference in order to be Don Bosco today, the role being asked of every Salesian.

The last point starts from the passion which the first successor of Don Bosco



had for “Da mihi animas.” “The mission called him to respond to the needs of the young and to find pastoral ways suited to reaching them with the proclamation of the gospel,” the Rector Major says inviting Salesians to take up the commitment to the evangelization of the young as the 26th General Chapter requested and according to the Strenna for 2010.

The celebration of the first centenary of the death of Don Rua - the Rector Major points out in his short letter - ought to help Salesians to be “conscious of the historical situation, that from the death of Don Bosco until our own days, the Congregation has had a great and significant development, taking steps forward, having second thoughts, making fresh starts, reflecting deeply. The identity of the Congregation can be understood better, in fact, through its history, knowing the forms and expressions it has assumed at different times and in different places.”

SYLC SES Preview

I received several photos of SYLC this morning (June 29). I was not able to open them in such a way that they would come out crisp and clear. Hence complete coverage of SYLC and SES will have to wait for next week’s *InTouch*.

Ralph J Murphy

FIAT and the Salesians: We have the same roots



(ANS – Seville) – On Wednesday 17 June, in the presence of those responsible for FIAT-Spain, Salesians, Staff and students from the “Santísima Trinidad” Salesian Centre in Seville, two cars (an Alfa Romeo and a FIAT 500) and some teaching material for the students of “Automoción” were presented by the Italian Automobile Company. The occasion followed the agreement signed in Madrid last December between the Salesian vocational technical training centres and FIAT.

Among those also present were the National and Province Coordinators of Salesian Schools Óscar González and Mr Juan Villarejo and Italian representatives of Fiat

In his welcoming address the Rector of the Salesian centre **Fr. Eusebio López**, said that “‘Technology and Training’ together should help young people to develop and mature.” **Marcello Fantoni**, Director of Customer Services for “Fiat Group Automobiles” in Spain, said that “FIAT and the Salesians have the same roots” and introduced the TECH-pro2 as a project for young people in vocational training schemes and preparation for work.

Also present were the Commercial Director of Fiat-Spain, **Filippo Rivarera**, and the Director of Training for Fiat-Spain, **Ignacio Porrás**, who speaking to the young people told them that society as well as the motor industry needs people who are well-prepared and responsible.

The ceremony was followed by refreshments during which Marcello Fantoni gave to the Rector the keys of the two cars which were being donated.