



Nouvelles Salésiennes

Salesian News

JUIN 2008 JUNE No.106

Bulletin mensuel électronique
sdbsem@videotron.ca

SHERBROOKE, QC. Comme partout ailleurs dans l'hémisphère nord, l'année scolaire ici tire à sa fin avec tout ce que cela implique comme activités. On constate quand même que nos jeunes n'ont pas le goût de commencer leurs vacances avant le temps. Encore trois bonnes semaines de travail!

Les activités théâtrales ont pris fin au début du mois avec la présentation de l'excellente pièce *La Nuit de Valogne*, d'Éric Emmanuel Schmitt, l'un, sinon l'auteur contemporain le plus lu dans le monde francophone. Oui, excellente prestation, mais pas facile à jouer! Nos jeunes vedettes se sont surpassées. Puis, nouveauté cette année, les anciens/nes du Salésien ont présenté une pièce aussi, la 6^e de la saison, *Silence dans les Coulisses. Les Coups de Cœur* avaient lieu le 7 mai. Quelques noms de vedettes qui se sont distingués -- toujours tâche ardue lorsque le talent abonde : Vincent Marquis, Anika Rozon, Sabrina Côté. Ils sont d'ailleurs en liste pour le *Prix Gaétan Marcil* à la *Fête de la Reconnaissance* au Théâtre Granada au début de juin. Le traditionnel défilé de mode a eu lieu encore cette année à la Salle P.Décarie.

Pour le rafting des anciens/nes, ça se passait sur la Rivière-Rouge près de Rigaud. Le P. Alain a vécu son baptême initiatique cette année; Bob était de la partie, bien sûr. Une bonne douzaine de courageux « draveurs » qui n'ont quand même pas trouvé les eaux trop glaciales (effet de serre peut-être, comme les ours polaires?). Tous revenus sains et saufs. Le *Mondo-Bosco*- grand tournoi de soccer- arrive à son terme. Dans les semi-finales s'affrontent l'Italie et l'Argentine (1^{ère} sec.), l'Azerbaïdjan et le Djibouti (2^{ème} sec.). Marie-Josée Pariseau est toujours l'âme animatrice de cette activité qui implique tous les élèves des 1^{ère} et 2^{ème}

secondaires et qui dure tout le mois de mai et jusqu'au 12 juin. Le *Bosco Bicycle* est déjà mis en branle : le choix des moniteurs, rencontres d'information pour les parents et jeunes cyclistes, etc.

Une bonne tradition d'autrefois a été reprise cette année avec le *Gala Sportif* le 30 mai. On se souvient des années où, voulant souligner les exploits de nos jeunes, une vedette du monde du sport était invitée pour ce grand événement qui se tenait au gymnase du Salésien. Ainsi on a vu défiler des personnes comme Yvan Cournoyer, Claude Ruel, Jacques Plante, Jean Béliveau, Guy Lafleur, Mike Bossy, etc. Le P. George Harkins, l'initiateur de ce gala vers la fin des années '60, est venu de Toronto. Étaient invités aussi- ils ont répondu nombreux à l'invitation- les sportifs intronisés au *Temple de la Renommée*; ce sont tous des anciens/nes du Salésien. Rappelons que le premier intronisé en 1986 (posthume) fut Bertrand Fabi, coureur automobile. En 1985 il avait été couronné triple champion en Formule 2000 : Angleterre, Europe, Benelux. En 1987 l'entrée au Temple était destinée à Jean-Marc Rozon, médaillé d'or aux Jeux Olympiques de Calgary ('88). En 2007, c'était Valérie Lambert, espoir olympique en patinage de vitesse à Vancouver en 2010. Cette année l'honneur est revenu à Chanel Beaudoin-Cloutier qui se démarque dans le domaine de la voile. Dans son discours d'acceptation, elle a illustré quelques facettes de son sport et montré comment il fait bon ménage avec ses études; elle est étudiante à la Faculté de Médecine de l'U. de Sherbrooke, ayant été récipiendaire à la fin de sa 5^e sec. de la médaille du Gouverneur Général. Elle a aussi parlé des valeurs apprises au Salésien et comment elle les transpose dans sa vie. C'est grâce à l'initiative de Julie Tremblay, agente de

développement et de communication au Séminaire et de Denis Boisvert, directeur des sports, si cet événement a repris vie. Jean Arel, la « voix du sport de l'Estrie », était l'animateur de la soirée.

La communauté, plus discrète et moins nombreuse qu'il y a 25 ans, mais non moins présente à l'œuvre, elle aussi porte de l'avant son projet de vie et ses activités communautaires. Nous avons reçu à la mi-mai la visite du P. Hector Pascal d'Haïti. C'est chose connue dans le milieu qu'il viendra nous prêter main forte en août pour l'année scolaire, prenant en main, parmi autres choses, la pastorale au 2^e cycle. Le P. Hector n'est pas un inconnu à Sherbrooke puisqu'il a fait ses études de théologie à l'Université de Sherbrooke (ordination à la prêtrise en '79). On peut déjà envisager qu'il sera aussi actif, combatif et courageux qu'Hector de Troie, sans toutefois subir le même sort...

Au début du mois, le P. Trottier allait à Montréal pour participer au conseil provincial des sdb; le P. Paul était aussi invité au conseil puisqu' on y discutait parmi tant (!) d'autres questions de l'avenir du *Carrefour Salésien*. Et le 21, le conseil se trouvait à New Rochelle dans la banlieue de NY City à discuter du futur statut de la province salésienne du Canada. Il s'agissait d'une rencontre conjointe des conseils canadien et américain, n'ayant rien à voir avec les élections primaires présentement en cours chez nos voisins du sud.

Comme partout dans le monde salésien, même si c'était la veille de la solennité du T.S. Sacrement, on a souligné la fête de Marie Auxiliatrice par une célébration de la Parole intégrée à l'Office de la fête du Saint Sacrement: *Marie, Femme Eucharistique*. C'était aussi pour nous sensibiliser davantage au 49^e Congrès Eucharistique International qui se déroulera à Québec du 15-21 juin. Au début de cette semaine-là- *Jour de Dollard, Jour de la Reine, Jour des Patriotes* (faites votre choix!) -- nous avons notre récollection mensuelle -- quelques confrères de Montréal s'y trouvaient aussi -- et pour l'occasion nous avons comme conférencier invité M. Yvan

Cloutier, un laïc très engagé et très spirituel, ancien prof. de philo au CEGEP de Sherbrooke qui nous a entretenus sur le *prière de consentement* (*centering prayer* ou *prière du silence*) selon la méthode de Thomas Keating, o.c.s.o.). Il fut très apprécié. Pas entièrement inconnu des salésiens, puisqu'il a participé à des congrès une fois ou deux à notre maison générale à Rome.

Les élèves aussi auront l'occasion de vivre la dimension spirituelle et chrétienne de notre spiritualité en ces derniers jours de l'année; des eucharisties de groupe précédées d'une préparation durant les cours. C'est un élément pilier de notre pédagogie spirituelle salésienne, tout en respectant le cheminement de chacun.

À tous et chacun, bonne fin d'année scolaire et pour nos confrères dans les centres paroissiaux ou de jeunes ou les camps d'été, bonne continuation de votre ministère pastoral!

MONTREAL, QC. We concluded our catechism year for about 900 children. About 180 catechists are involved in the programme, mostly college and university students; they generously offer their time each week for the teaching of the Catholic faith.

Some time after returning from GC26, Fr. Richard met the confreres to inform them of the main events and deliberations of the gathering in Rome. At the beginning of the month, he initiated the yearly visitation of the community. This year it exceptionally took place in two phases. During the first week, he met individually and by groups the personnel of St. Joseph parish and the following week that of Maria Auxiliatrice Parish. In mid-May, he concluded the visitation meeting the confreres of both parishes since they form one canonical house.

On May 16, we had the joy of welcoming among us Fr. Tito Iannaccio from the Mozambique Province, where, missionary from Argentina, he had been exercising his ministry for the past two years. He is not coming for a

vacation! He will be ministering for the coming years in our parish and at the youth centre.

To prepare the summer camp, about 50 of our young animators went with Fr. Richard to the *Our Lady of Fatima Centre* in Île Perrot for a two-day session in view of their commitment at the service of our youth.

The feast of Mary Help of Christians this year was celebrated in a rather minor key since May 24 was the vigil of the liturgical feast of *Corpus Domini*. Given also that, being a Saturday, there were marriage celebrations. We solemnised the First Vespers of the feast to sensitise us more to the coming *International Eucharistic Congress* in Quebec City in mid-June. So we had a solemn celebration of the Eucharist in the evening, followed by a very devotional procession of the faithful and priests of the parish on the street going to Da Vinci School; we concluded with a holy hour of adoration in church.

SURREY, B.C. On May 2 and 3, Fr. Dave traveled with a busload of high school teens from Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish to the Vancouver Archdiocesan YOUTH DAY: WITNESS THE POWER. Keynote speakers Steve Angrisano and Tammy Evevard inspired the crowd with their witness and song. Also included was a workshop by Fr. Dave! Both Archbishops Roussin and Miller were in attendance presiding over Eucharistic adoration on Friday, and the Eucharist on Saturday.

The Polish Saturday School had a special Mass in honour of Mary Queen of Poland on the first Saturday of May, while OLG School celebrated the first Friday in May with a school Mass. Although we said the Office and the Mass of St. Dominic Savio on the 6th, as a parish we officially celebrated his feast day on the 10th to usher in our first communicants, over 80 strong, with their families and a special shrine in his honour. The beautiful flower arrangements and decorations done by the Polish community also tied in with their First Communion celebration the very next day. All

that following week they held their traditional “White Mass” for the joy of their first communicants and families.

On the 15th we began the daily novena to Mary Help of Christians. Bro. Jerry led the singing at the morning Mass, while one of the choirs did the music for the evening Mass. On the 16th the Salesian Cooperators held their monthly meeting, and on the day after, Fr. Jan left for Calgary to visit his sister for a week, and to welcome his younger sister visiting from Poland. It was her first trip to Canada; she returned with him to Surrey. She stayed with one of the Polish families and took in Whistler and Victoria, plus some of the Vancouver landmarks and sights. She then returned to Calgary for a few more days with her older sister, and was very impressed with our mixed cultures here at OLG Parish.

Trinity Sunday was more than a double-header here at home base. Within the seven Sunday Masses we also had the Portuguese “*Spirito Santo*” Festival with their customs, parade and dances. In the afternoon a busload along with Bro. Jerry joined the Archdiocese Eucharistic Adoration Rally and Procession in Abbotsford’s Rotary Stadium. This event was inaugurating the 100th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The Rosary was said as the Blessed Sacrament within the monstrance was held high leading the route; the two archbishops and clergy, then the Knights of Columbus as honour guards, accompanied by the Catholic Women’s League, the first communicants and five representatives from each church with their parish banner. The sun was hot as Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, gave the welcoming talk followed by Benediction with Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM. The presentation of certificates to the first communicants concluded the event. The music and songs were sung by St. Matthew’s parish choir, who did an outstanding presentation for this anniversary launching.

Victoria Day had us Salesians go over our Evaluation Plan and out for lunch. The School Mass honoured Mary Help of Christians with their theme. Saturday the 24th was a con-

The *WYD 2008* group is in its final preparation. On May 25, the Archdiocese hosted a Corpus Christi event starting with Mass with the archbishop, blessing of the pilgrims, a procession from the Basilica to Grandin Park School and a BBQ. The last week of May we had our Liturgy Committee windup at a local Italian restaurant. On May 30, the Jr. High School had its "Farewell Mass" followed by a reception. This is just the beginning of year end school Masses and celebrations.

TORONTO-HAMILTON, ON. Fr. Occhio has just returned from his home town of Cremona, Italy. He enjoyed a most pleasant family reunion. One of his nephews will be ordained a priest next year. Fr. Joseph is tanned and rejuvenated. -- Fr. Ivan Dobresk (96) is back in his long-term unit after the operation on his hip. He is in good humour in spite of the inconvenience caused by his recent fall. -- Bro. Steve's wrist is healing well. He is now following therapy for some lower back pain (a former basketball injury).

Bro. Bernie has been on the GO this past month attending provincial council meetings in Montreal and in New Rochelle, N.Y., as well as vocation sessions. -- Fr. Frank Kelly arrived back in Toronto to much fanfare. He has moved into our Don Bosco Residence. He is now getting his bearings straight after an 8-month sabbatical in New York. Welcome home! -- Fr. Mike is an uncle once again! His brother Paul and Emma welcomed a healthy baby boy, Jonah, on June 2. He is their 8th child (6 boys and 2 girls).

Over 50 youngsters (8 to 14 years) from our St. Dominic Savio after-school program participated in a feastday Mass honouring their patron on May 6. Fr. George presided and gave the homily. -- On May 24 at St. Benedict's parish, Fr. Joe Ho presided over the feast of Mary Help of Christians in honour of this patroness of China. There were over 100 Chinese past pupils and their families celebrating together with our parishioners -- The St. John Bosco Council of the Knights of

Columbus held a very successful lobster and steak supper on May 31 in the hall of St. Benedict's Church. Over 190 persons feasted copiously.

The Salesian Family groups from the Toronto area held their gathering on May 24 at St. Benedict's Parish. Forty-two members were in attendance. The key-note speaker was Sister Cora Beboso, FMA. She spoke on Salesian spirituality. A Eucharistic celebration, lunch, video and discussion completed the day. All are looking forward to another gathering in the fall.

On Victoria Day, our community was hosted by the Pace family. We greatly enjoyed their warm welcome and naturally the food too. -- Our community recently welcomed both Fr. Mike Mendl and Fr. Steve Ryan from the USA; they were in Toronto for a media convention and vocation discernment session respectively.

COMMUNICATION FOR COMMUNION.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, official spokesman for the Vatican, was recently given an honorary doctorate from the Regis College, the Jesuit graduate faculty of theology at one of Canada's leading universities in Toronto. Father Lombardi acknowledged: "When I ask myself how to summarize in a very few words the deeper significance of what has by now become my lengthy service in the field of social communications, I find ever greater resonance in the words: '**communication for union, communication for communion.**' In this world, marked by so many divisions and so in need of reconciliation, words -- spoken or written -- or the message carried by an image, must in the first place serve to bring people together, to tell others the truth, to tell them what is good and beautiful; they must convey the joy of listening to someone who gives you something of their own knowledge, of their experience, of their life. And thus mutual knowledge also increases mutual respect and the desire to live and develop together in peace." (Adapted from *ZENIT*)

=====

INTERVIEW WITH SR. ALPHONSINE ROY

For almost five years now, Sr. Alphonsine, FMA, has been the provincial superior of the Salesian Sisters of Canada. In that role, she governs and animates the FMA communities located in Lagacéville, Montreal and Toronto. She resides in Montreal. She is an authentic “daughter of l’Acadie.”

Sr. Alphonsine, can you tell us something about your place of birth, your family?

I was born in the little village of Alcida near Petit-Rocher, New Brunswick. In my family we were 13 children: 6 girls and 7 boys. My father died at the age of 49 when I was only 7 years old. With the faith and the courage of my dear mother we lived a happy life. In her daily prayers my mother asked Jesus to choose one of her sons to become a priest. The Lord gave her a nephew, Father Jean-Marc Guérette, and me as a Salesian Sister. She lived her life thanking God for that great blessing.

What about your childhood and youth?

As a young girl I had to take my responsibilities and help out in the family. My mother taught me, more by her example, to put Christ at the center of my life. I received the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation frequently. It was always a joy for me to participate at Sunday Mass, and when we had a resident priest I often skipped my breakfast in order to go to Mass during the week before taking the school bus. To receive Communion meant to go without eating since midnight.

How did you get to know the Salesian Sisters?

At 14 years old, I met a friend, Sr. Lilianne Roy, who asked me if I wanted to go with her the next school year to Pointe-Verte, where three of her cousins were Salesian Sisters. That morning it was clear that I was not interested, but at lunch time my mother asked me the same question, which I believe was the Lord calling me. After a time of silence, we discussed it and, believe it or not, the three of us went to see the

priest before going to confession. It was decided that Fr. Stanislas Dionne would take us to meet the Salesian Sisters in Pointe-Verte. My first encounter with Sr. Rose Oliveri and the sisters was super. The joy that radiated from them and their simplicity helped me to say my *yes*. The three of us were accepted, and we entered at the end of August 1959. Today Sr. Lilianne Roy and I are Salesian Sisters.

What were the main phases of your formation?

Because of my young age I had 3 years as an aspirant and 10 months as a postulant. Then I spent 2 years as a novice in Newton, USA, and one year as a junior professed to continue my formation while teaching in the States. Before making our perpetual vows, we spent a month with our group preparing for our definitive *Yes*. My first visit to Turin, Mornese and Rome was in 1976, where I went for a month of formation on youth ministry. In 1987-88 I had the joy of returning to Rome at the *Auxilium* for a year of Salesian spirituality.

Where did you exercise your apostolate?

One year in the States, 5 in Pointe-Verte and 31 in Lagacéville, New Brunswick. For many years I spent my summers studying, animating camps in the States and Canada: Newton, North Haledon and Lagacéville.

You are now provincial superior of the sisters of Canada. How do you consider your mission in that role and what do you see as most important in that ministry?

On August 15, 2003, I began my new mission of service as provincial. The most important is to help the sisters keep alive the spirit of Don Bosco and of Mother Mazzarello, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to the expectations of the Church in the evangelisation of youth. Today we need to “witness” our love of Christ by living united with all our Sisters. I believe this is what will attract young people to follow Christ in religious life.

