

November 30, 2011

Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle

Patron of the San Francisco Province

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

About our province patron Saint Andrew, as is the case with all of Jesus' apostles, we know very little. But what the gospels do tell us about him is a holy challenge.

The gospel of John presents Andrew first as a disciple of John the Baptist who introduced the young fisherman to Jesus. Andrew then ran immediately and told his brother Peter that he had met the Messiah. Then Peter came to meet Jesus too. Andrew was an evangelizer. He came to meet Jesus. He brought others to meet Jesus. Therefore it is so appropriate for us in Don Bosco West to have Andrew as our patron. To know and follow the Lord Jesus ourselves, to invite others to know and follow the Lord Jesus by our witness, our accompaniment and our processes of ministry and education---is that not our *raison d'être* as a province community?

Having Andrew as our patron becomes even more meaningful and stimulating when we reflect that later in John's gospel it is Andrew who finds the boy with the five barley loaves and two pieces of fish and brings him to Jesus. With the little the young boy brings, Jesus miraculously feeds an enormous crowd. In Don Bosco West we form a vast movement of priests, brothers,

and lay men and women who also want to find those young people who have so little, bring them to Jesus, and let Jesus perform great miracles from the little they have to offer.

To help celebrate our feast day in a special way this year, two documents are being made available far and wide throughout the province. The first is the **Province Organic Plan** and the second is Don Bosco's own *Memoirs of the Oratory*. Both have the overall purpose of helping us grow as evangelizers like Andrew, evangelizers like Don Bosco.

Last week in this letter I asked if we could say that "in Don Bosco West the centrality of the person of Jesus Christ is profound and transparent in each one of our lives, in each one of our communities, in each one of our ministries." The **Province Organic Plan** lays out the fundamental priorities and strategies that will guide the province to be able to answer a resounding YES to that question. Don Bosco's *Memoirs of the Oratory* shows us how our father and founder became the apostle of the young. Reading his *Memoirs* again can only help us come to know him better, and to imitate him in making the evangelization of the young our life's mission.

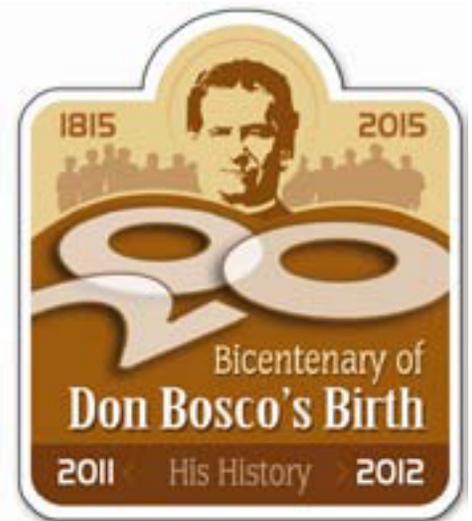
May Saint Andrew, Apostle, intercede for all of us that we become more like Don Bosco, evangelizer of the young. Happy Feast day to Don Bosco West!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB

Provincial

To know and follow the Lord Jesus ourselves, to invite others to know and follow the Lord Jesus by our witness, our accompaniment and our processes of ministry and education---is that not our *raison d'être* as a province community?



## PROVINCIAL'S CALENDAR



### NOVEMBER 2011

30 Office Days

### DECEMBER 2011

- 1 Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club Board Meeting
- 2-6 Visitation: Corpus Christi Parish, San Francisco
- 7 Advent Day of Recollection for Priests, San Francisco
- 8 Office Day
- 9-13 Visitation: Watsonville
- 14 Office Day

## May They Rest in the Peace of Christ

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mr. Han Nguyen

uncle of Fr. Tho Bui, SDB

San Jose, CA

November 29, 2011

## 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 previous week.  
Send contributions to:  
[intouch@salesiansc.org](mailto:intouch@salesiansc.org).

# NCYC

"Our Christian Catholic faith tells us that we need to be down at the bottom of the hill looking up to the King of the Hill, Christ the King, on the cross. He is the King of the Hill, and when we follow that (path) we are placing ourselves in righteousness before God. We are placing ourselves in the call to glory, and we're working toward salvation."

† Bishop Coyne of Indianapolis

## CALLED to GLORY

national catholic youth conference  
indianapolis . nov 17-19 . 2011

*"I would recommend this experience to everyone and anyone. It's amazing, but you have to experience it for yourself."*

Andres Neira,  
Salesian Booth Animator, SUO

### ✎ By Judy Wilber Alvarez

Indianapolis, IN - On November 17-19 the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) gathered 23,000 youth, adult leaders and parents to explore and celebrate what it means to be Called to Glory. The process of the weekend included keynote assemblies, workshops, communal prayer and Eucharist. A thematic park also engaged participants with people and resources to foster their faith and ability to live as young Catholic Christians.

In the thematic park the Salesians of St. John Bosco offered a carnival booth where youth were accompanied by Salesian family members as they played over 20 games. In this con-

text conversations were sparked and prizes were won that declared what Don Bosco himself would say, "It is enough that you are young for me to love you."

The booth was the fruit of collaborative planning between all four provinces in North America, spearheaded this year by Fr. Steve Ryan. With the special assistance of Sr. Colleen Clair and the sisters in the East, the carnival theme came alive in a fun and organized way.

Booth animators included Salesians from all four provinces, including sisters, priests, brothers, pre-novices, postulants and laity. Together they were strong signs and bearers of God's

love for all who visited.

#### **For video highlights of NCYC**

My Catholic Voice

#### **NCYC electronic 'holy shoutout**

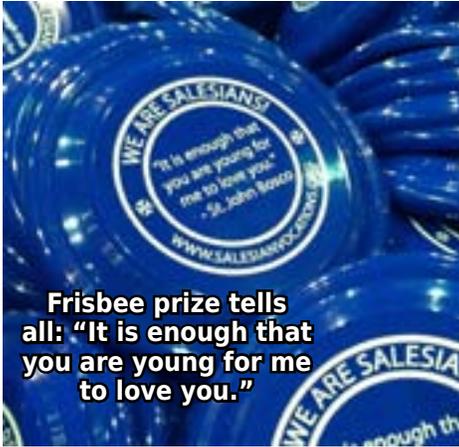
Catholic News Network

#### **One Bishop's View of Attending NCYC**

What's with the Youth?

NOTE: The Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium have proven to accommodate well the ever-growing attendance at NCYC and so this conference will return here in the fall of 2013.

# AROUND THE USA **NCYC** CALLED TO GLORY



Frisbee prize tells all: "It is enough that you are young for me to love you."



Pre-novices demonstrate the magic of juggling



Sr. Ann Cassidy in NCYC high fashion



Snag the key and you win!



Stand up the bottle for vocations?



Spinning for a prize

## “KIDS CAN” AT ST. LUKE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Stockton, CA - Mrs. Sanders is so proud of her third graders at St. Luke Elementary School. They all worked so hard to make their goal of collecting cans for the “Kids Can” food drive. They went above and beyond it, collecting 1,309 cans for the emergency foodbank in the Stockton and San Joaquin area. They were to win a fast food prize for their efforts, but they voted and decided to not get their McDonald’s treat. Instead they chose to use their food money to buy more cans, so more people can have food for the holidays. Check out this special story covered by KCRA News:

### Kids Can



□ by Fr. Al Mengon, SDB

## PLEASE, MEET CELIA FIOROVICH.

Besides being a loyal and generous parishioner of the Valley Catholic Church parish community, Celia is also an accomplished artist. Please admire this labor of love, an oil painting of our beloved Valley church.

Thank you Celia. With the church we pray:

**May the talents of artists, reflect your splendor, O Lord, and may their work give the world hope and joy.**  
*(Liturgy of the Hours: Tuesday, Evening Prayer)*

## SDB Birthdays DECEMBER



**Alphonse Vu 1**  
**Thinh Nguyen 6**  
**Ted Montemayor 13**  
**Al Mengon 19**



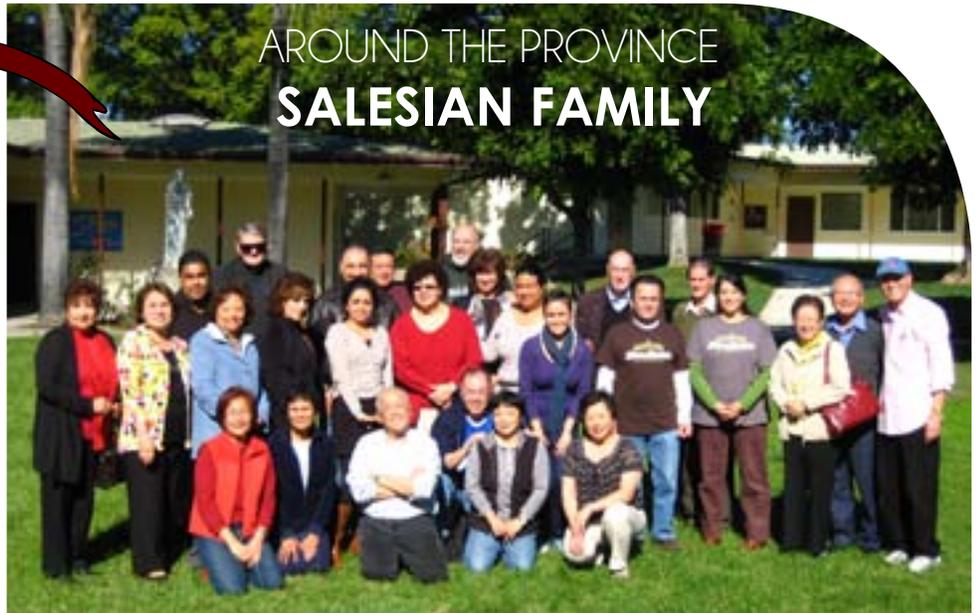
## Many thanks to PATRICIO CARPIO and the rest of the people at

RV's Computers in Watsonville.

This brand new Brother's printer is their gift to the Salesian Mission in Lungu, Sierra Leone.

The Salesians in Lungu are also very grateful.

Thank you Patricio and the rest at RV's Computers.



# Salesian Cooperators Christmas Project 2011

May those who eat  
Be bread for others!

The Watsonville Christmas Project headed by the Salesian Cooperator Groups of Southern California, are reaching out to the needy. Our Christmas Project this year includes:

- 1) Gifts for the migrant families of Watsonville. We are invited to bring in new toys, clothing, and household items. ( Gathering of gifts ends on December 11, 2011)
- 2) The Saturday Oratory: a Saturday program for at risk children at a Salesian center. This program aims at making healthy lunch with the kids, working on budgeting, planning and healthy food choices and a reading incentive program focusing on reading, book summary writing and oral presentations with prize incentive at the completion of the program.



## We have the opportunity To support our Salesian Mission

- o By bringing in the donations of new un-wrapped toys, new clothing, and new kitchen ware
- o And/or by donating cash (checks payable to Salesian Society)
- o You may designate your gift for "Watsonville" and/or "Saturday Oratory"



*At St. Joseph, gifts and cash donations can be brought to the 9:30 Mass on the Sundays or mail to Sheila Kun, 8545 Silver Ridge Dr., Rosemead, 91770 (e-mail [Louiskun@yahoo.com](mailto:Louiskun@yahoo.com)) or c/o Fr. Joseph Paradayil, SDB, St. Joseph's Salesian Youth Renewal Center/Noviate, P.O.Box 1639 Rosemead, CA 91770, OR contact your local Salesian Cooperator Center to make a donation.*



AROUND THE PROVINCE  
**SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**

# AN ADVENT JOURNEY

Dear Salesian family,

Advent is a good time to explore the meaning of Salesian social communication. After all, the coming of Jesus into the world was above all the communication of God's love for us, incarnating his love in human terms so we could better know and love him. Salesian social communication is rooted in the incarnational love of God.

In the life of Don Bosco this love translated into a lived experience with young boys abandoned to the harsh realities of Turin during the Industrial Revolution. There Don Bosco was the first to love, drawing youth into relationship through reason, religion and kindness. His love was creative not only of personal relationships but also of community, creating environments of welcome, friendship, growth and faith where the young could discover their purpose in God's loving plan. Don Bosco, as disciple and apostle of Jesus, brought God's love to the world of the young in his day, and we are called now to do the same.

Salesian social communication wants to foster the dynamic reality of this love in all our works. As such Salesian social communication is rooted in all



**Judy Wilber Alvarez**

Province Delegate  
for Social Communication

Through these technologies youth have developed new places to be and new ways to communicate. However rich with connectivity these spaces may be, they are not unlike the streets of Industrial Turin where a wrong turn could lead to trouble.

GC26 describes this reality and our Salesian response: "We also feel challenged by the new technologies of social communication and by the educational challenges they pose. Today's communication opportunities have become an habitual way for young people to meet, exchange ideas, and get involved quickly

and with great mobility, but also in an impersonal and virtual way. The culture of personal media can compromise one's ability to mature in personal relationships and exposes young people especially to the danger of very negative encounters and dependencies; this is the 'playground' where we need to be present in order to listen, enlighten, guide" (GC 26,

## MEDIA MATTERS

### MEMOIRS OF THE ORATORY OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

**The Autobiography of St. John Bosco**

**(1989 edition with footnotes)**

**Now available to download at:**

**<http://salesianfamily.org/resources>**

### SAN JUAN DON BOSCO - PADRE Y MAESTRO DE LA JUVENTUD

**This video chronology of the life and work of Don Bosco was prepared by Salesian Social Communication experts in Brazil and then translated from Portuguese into Spanish by Marcelo Mejia, the Province Delegate for Social Communication in Ecuador. It is a valuable resource for the study of Don Bosco in our Spanish-speaking communities. Enjoy!**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1Vvym4c-Zg>**

the ways we live the preventive system, educating youth to the fullness of life and faith. However, given the circumstances of today's world, Salesian social communication particularly hopes to accompany the young who so readily inhabit the digital spaces made possible by new technologies.

99).

In this season of Advent let us go to these playgrounds with the creative love of Don Bosco.

In Mary our Help,

*Judy*

# ADVENT

**AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION**

for SALESIAN YOUNG ADULTS

COME TAKE A MOMENT  
AND STOP FROM YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES  
AND SPEND AN AFTERNOON IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION  
ON GOD'S WORD

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011**

**1:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

NORCAL: DON BOSCO HALL  
BERKELEY, CA

SOCAL: ST. JOSEPH YOUTH RENEWAL CENTER  
ROSEMEAD, CA

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PROVINCE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE  
[SDBYOUTH@SALESIANYM.ORG](mailto:SDBYOUTH@SALESIANYM.ORG) OR CALL 415-866-3300

# MISSION ANIMATION

## INTER-AMERICA MISSION ANIMATION MEETING

✎ by Juan Carlos Montenegro

### Cumbayá, Ecua-

**dor** - From October 30 through November 3, the 3rd continental missionary seminar for the Americas was held in Ecuador. Organized by the Salesians' Missions Council in Rome, the meeting brought together delegates for mission animation from 21 provinces throughout North, Central, and South

America. Also partaking in the meeting were members of the General Council for the Missions: Fr. Vaclav Klement, General Councilor of the Missions, Fr. Alfred Maravilla, Fr. Stanislaw Rafalko. The meeting was facilitated by Fr. Rafael Borges, member of the General Council for Youth Ministry.

The meeting offered an in-depth look at the role of the "DIAM," or the Mission Animator, as it pertains to the individual province and the congregation overall. As part of the gathering, 6 provinces presented their "best practices" in order to shed some light on what other provinces are doing to help foster a missionary culture.

It was very inspiring to see everything that is going on in the different provinces. Many ideas were gathered and future goals were made that need to be shared and discussed with our Province Mission Animation Team. It is amazing to see how much was learned, taught, and shared.

On a personal level this meeting has challenged me to see new ways to develop a missionary culture in our



province. This is a challenge that I am going to share with the Missionary Animation Team to see where we can improve and grow. There is a lot of work to be done. As Fr. Viganó said, "The Salesian Missions are an essential feature of our charism."

### DON BOSCO Track JACKET

#### Cost of the Sweatshirt

\$35 for S, M, L and XL

\$40 for 2XL



Actual color is more sky blue.

#### To Place Your Order

Email or fax the following information to Gina Robles at [sdbyouth@salesianym.org](mailto:sdbyouth@salesianym.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

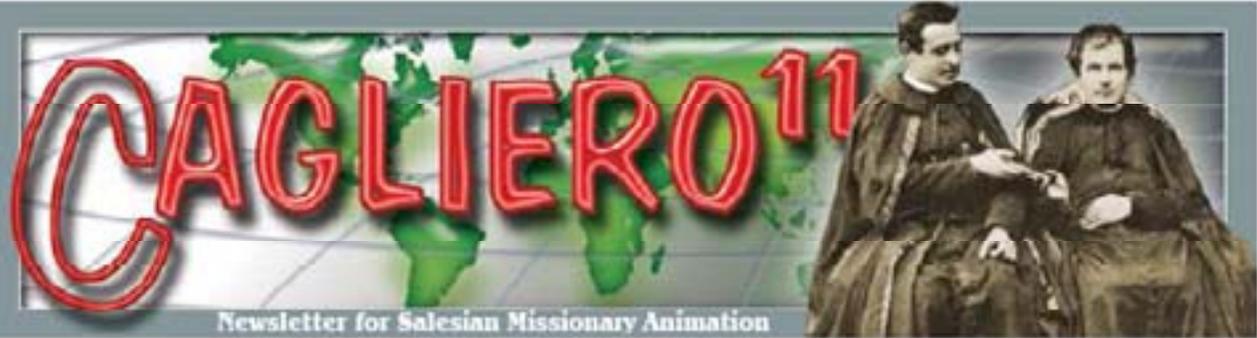
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Size(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *Salesian Youth Ministry* and send to

P.O. Box 1639

Rosemead, CA 91770



**D**ear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions!

At a distance of 90 years since the foundation of the first missionary aspirantate at Ivrea, I thank the Lord for the opening of the new missionary aspirantate at Sirajuli, India - Province of Guwahati, last November 22, 2011 in memory of the last Salesian Bishop of Shillong, Bishop Hubert D’Rosario SDB. Since last July the first group of 54 pre-novices and aspirants have already begun their training with the intention of dedicating their life for mission ad gentes.

So the Salesian missionary tradition in force for 50 years since 1922, due to an inspired intuition and vision of Blessed Fr Philip Rinaldi, is renewed. Soon after other missionary aspirantates were founded in Italy (Ivrea, Penang, Foglizzo, Gaeta, Bagnolo Cumiana, Turin - Rebaudengo Colle Don Bosco), Spain (Astudillo), Britain (Shrigley) and France (Coat an Doct). The missionary aspirantate has proven to be a wonderful and very fruitful tool. The 3 or 4 years training offered to young people was very demanding and pragmatic, centered on the needs of specific missions (Italy: 3 houses for the brothers, 5 for clerics). They left for the missions at the age of 15-18. For example, the Cardinal Cagliari aspirantate of Ivrea alone sent about 1000 missionaries in the course of its existence (1922-1965). Like other ecclesial realities, all missionary aspirantates were closed down in the late sixties.

Now a new chapter of missionary vocations in South Asia begins. The presence of the Regional Councilor together with the Rector of Ivrea, Fr Eligio Caprioglio, at the opening at Sirajuli shows a link, inspiration and continuity with the roots of Salesian missionary culture. I thank the courage, missionary vision, and generosity of the Province of Guwahati in this new enterprise. At the same time I have received report that a possible second Aspirantate may arise in south India in the near future.

I ask you to accompany the formators and young people of the aspirantate at Sirajuli with your prayers not only today, but especially over the next three years when the profiles and the journey of young candidates for the Salesian missionary life would be better defined! I commend all to the guidance and protection of Mary Help of Christians. .

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

**5 Aspirants sent as Missionaries in Japan**



Perhaps it is a unique case in the Congregation in recent years when 5 young Vietnamese Salesians started out as missionaries to Japan from the aspirantate to facilitate their inculturation in Japanese culture and society: John Le Pham Nghia Phu, Joseph Nguyen Giao Hoa, Joseph Nguyen Khac Diep, Andrew Tran Minh Hai and Joseph Nguyen Duy Han. The five young missionaries have done their novitiate and are now in the post-novitiate. They brought a breath of novelty and freshness into the formation house in the community of Chofu. Although they have not received the missionary cross in Turin, they carry the not so light cross of being missionaries in a highly developed country where it is not easy to share the Gospel.



“Cagliari 11” wishes all its readers a **Holy Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**



# In the missions I am learning what is true happiness



**D**uring my childhood Uruguayan missionaries in Angola sometimes visited us. When I was 15 a Salesian priest invited me to join the group Juventud Misionera Salesiana where I had my first missionary experiences in the poor suburbs of Montevideo. At 18 I entered the aspirantate. At 24 I had in my heart the certainty that my Salesian vocation meant leaving everything and going out to wherever Jesus wanted to take me. The following years were years of much personal prayer and discernment, in the meantime, the inner desire to realise this call continued to increase. The help of my spiritual director as well as that of my Rector in the theologate, who advised me wisely and prudently, were crucial.

I wanted to be a missionary ad gentes, even if in Uruguay there are many people who do not practice their faith because being a missionary does not

come from an idea nor from a personal desire but from the certainty of having discovered the call of God that teaches us to share what we are and have from our poverty and not from what is superfluous for us. I want only to be faithful to the vocation I have received and follow it without looking back.

I feel that the Course for New Missionaries was a gift from God! It has helped me become more clearly aware that the missionary vocation ad gentes is for life, that you cannot set out to the deep and yet continually look back at the shores you have left behind. It also taught me to accept with humility that one arrives in the new mission like a child, with the need to learn, to listen, to respect and that it is normal that sometimes this situation produces impatience or anger. Finally, the course has confirmed to me the idea so old yet ever so relevant to make Jesus the centre of my life, to give him all my heart once and for all!

It is now 3 years that I live in the poorest neighborhood in the city of Luanda called "Lixeira" which means "rubbish dump". However, for me, Lixeira is a great school of life where God really dwells. In this school I learnt in a short time from our Oratory animators: One day they came with sad and angry faces. Talking with them one of them told me, "one of those white people who arrived ... we were in their home and

they told us that it was time for the family meal so they told us to come back later. We felt very bad". There I understood that in this school there is always room for one more at home, or 2 or 10! Here hospitality and care for others is so natural which, unfortunately, we have forgotten in our culture because we live surrounded with gates, alarms and sometimes the best friend is "virtual". The hug, the smile, the bread, the roof is not something that is denied to anyone because tomorrow it will be your turn to eat or sleep in my house. This is the lesson of solidarity from the poor, the friends of Jesus!

Thus, in this school I am learning that the essential things in life are few, that happiness is in little things, or rather in one: Jesus Christ! I knew it before, but now, here in the "rubbish dump" with them, I feel it, I experience it and enjoy it endlessly as long as God permits.



**Fr. Santiago Boix Puig**

*Uruguayan, missionary in Angola*

## Salesian Missionary Intention

### BRAZIL -- Missionary Volunteer Service

**That all the Provinces of Brazil may foster the growth of the missionary volunteer movement.**

*The materials and video for Salesian Mission Day 2011 offer insights from the experiences of some Provinces of Brazil. The growth in volunteer Service is understood both in the quality of educative proposals - pastoral and vocational guidance of young people involved, and the involvement of the whole Salesian community. We want to involve children and young people of all ages, from experiences of the Missionary Childhood Society to missionary voluntary service among young adults.*

*We want to accompany the groups from the experience of short intense periods (Christmas, Easter, summer and winter holidays) to long-term commitment or choice for life.*

