

January 5, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

The week beginning this Sunday, January 8-14, 2012, is **National Migration Week** in Catholic USA. And that is precisely the area of the Rector Major's fourth and final orientation for our Region at the conclusion of the El Salvador Team Visit: immigration.

The fact that there are fifty million Hispanic migrants in the United States, as well as the great impact on the millions of young people in countries south of the border, demands of the InterAmerica Region a Salesian response. In most of the provinces of our Region there already is sufficient attention given to young people who have parents or other family members who have left to migrate to the US. But the Region is being called to a greater practical and Salesian pastoral care for immigrants "al norte."

One big motivation for greater practical effort here is an ecclesial consciousness. These immigrants in the US are on the poorest fringes of society and they have the right to continue their path of faith in their new country. Another big motivation is a charismatic one. From the time of the first missionary expedition, Don Bosco was preoccupied with

immigrants, sending his Salesians not only to the native people of Patagonia, but also to accompany the Italian immigrants in Argentina.

And the Rector Major then gives another motivation. "The accompaniment of immigrants is a form of responsible participation in the **pastoral sensitivity of the SDB's of the United States**, who are already attending to our Latino brothers and sisters and request the collaboration of the Latino provinces. It is a consequence of the composition of the Region and of the necessity to seek an institutional response to global problems."

He then asks that a Regional Project of Salesian commitment in the field of immigration be prepared by the Regional Councilor and a corresponding commission and that it be taken up by the provinces in their pastoral and organic plans.

If the Rector Major is challenging our brothers in the other provinces of the Region to a greater awareness of this reality in the US Church and to a greater pastoral commitment, how much more must we here grow in this pastoral sensitivity and open our hearts and our doors to the immigrant, to the stranger among us. The theme of this year's National Migration Week is "Welcoming Christ in the Migrant." We call ourselves as a province to just that in the fifth priority of our own organic plan.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB  
Provincial



## Provincial's Calendar

### January 2012

- 5 Travel to Winnipeg, Canada
- 6 Funeral of  
Mr. Wilfrid Rougeau
- 7 Return to San Francisco
- 8 Drive to Rosemead
- 8-10 Provincial Council Meeting,  
St. Joseph's
- 11-24 Visitation: St. John Bosco,  
Savio, DeSales Hall,  
Befflower
- 18 Members Meeting, St. John  
Bosco High School,  
Bellflower

## Pray for Our Sick

**Al Montes**  
brother of Fr. Jesse  
kidney malfunction, coma,  
81 years old

## May they Rest in the Peace of Christ

**Sr. Celia Ramirez, FMA**  
San Antonio, TX  
December 28, 2011

**Fr. Vincent Zuliani, SDB (SUE)**  
Stony Point, NY  
Aged 84  
December 29, 2011

# Salesians Celebrate

## SDB Christmas at St. John Bosco HS

By Br. Joe Lockwood

SJB hosted the southland Christmas celebration at home because of the one elderly confrere and one elderly Cooperator who would not be able to attend due to their physical conditions.

At the celebration were 16 Salesians, one Cooperator, one pass pupil, one volunteer and one Salesian well-wisher. The day began with evening prayers, followed by social, dinner, desserts and exchange of gifts with our leader, Fr. Joe Nguyen, Director.

A previous party was also celebrated with the DeSales Hall Community, before the candidates and prenovice returned to their homes for Christmas.

Fr. Director speaking to the communities.



Bro. Steve Standard opening his gift from the Director.



Salesians, young and old, enjoy each other's company.



## St. Joseph Salesian Youth Renewal Center Community Party

On Thursday, December 22, St. Joseph's Novitiate Community, the Retreat Center Staff and Province YM and SC Offices gathered for a Christmas luncheon and gift-exchange, hosted by Fr. Bill and community. There was a great family spirit and lots of laughter during the animated exchange of gifts, with the option of choosing among those others had already received! The gathering also welcomed several family members of employees.



Happy New Year  
2012

## Christmas Cheer at Don Bosco Hall

All the Salesian communities in northern California gathered as a family for Christmas Dinner at Don Bosco Hall. Hosted by the community under the jovial care of Fr. John Roche, Director, and Fr. Steve Whelan, Economer, they had a lot of fun!



## SDB JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

John Itzaina	7
Jesse Montes	10
Tony Matse	17
Larry Byrne	19
Jack Gibson	28
Art Lenti	31
Steve Standard	31

## Sabbath Days of Christmas

By Bro Jared Anderson

It's been quite a transition these last few months - moving from novice to newly professed, from a community of 13 to a community of 30, from lots of prayer time to TONS of studying. After a very full semester of studies and ministry and praying that the thermometer stays above 50 degrees, six young SDB went with Bro. John Rasor, Fr. Steve Leake and Bro. Miguel Suarez to sunny Tampa, Florida for two weeks of necessary recharging and vacation. We split into two vans after a fun filled Christmas dinner on the 25th and drove all the way down to Tampa (26 hours on the road with a 3 hour traffic jam through South Carolina). After hours and miles and lots of 5-hour energy shots, we arrived and settled in at the Mary Help of Christians Center/St. Philip Residence.

On Wednesday we piled back into the vans and headed to Universal Studios. Disney World was considered, but Hogwarts called. Unfortunately for us, the lines were horrendous the first day, and most of us spent the day walking from packed attraction to packed attraction, or waiting in line for hours on end. We decided to go back that Friday, leaving at 6 a.m., and we lucked out. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter was at our fingertips (at this point little else in either park mattered...). After spending the day at Universal Studios, a contingency of very tired Salesians went home, satisfied that we were able to experience what we came for. New Years Eve was spent on a wharf in Channelside, Tampa watching an amazing fireworks display and ringing



Fr. Jim Mulloy, Bro. Jared Anderson, Bro. Mike Eguino, Fr. Dave Moreno and Bro. John Rasor gather in the living room to relax with the Yule log.

in the new year.

These next few days are more sabbath time for us postnovices: Fr. Tom Provenzano is here with us giving conferences on Salesian Personal Holiness, building on and giving more depth to what we received on retreat in August with Fr. Jim Heuser. We head back up to New Jersey on the 5th, and on the 7th the postnovices head out for a week in parishes to observe and take part in parish ministry. As luck would have it, this Westerner with New Orleans blood is headed to the coldest place in the Eastern Province: Toronto, Canada. I'm looking forward to spending time with the Salesians there. I just hope they don't have to ship me back in an ice cube!

Keep praying for us

over here in Orange! The honeymoon is over for many of us and we are realizing that being a professed religious takes work, discipline, and the daily choice to live out what we professed in August.

Your prayers have kept me afloat during this time, and they continue to keep me and the others in good spirits. Happy New Year and I look forward to being back home with my West Coast Salesian Family!

Bro. Juan Pablo Rubio, Bro. Eduardo Chinchá, Bro. Miguel Suarez, Fr. Steve Leake, Bro. Marc Stockhausen, Bro. Jared Anderson and Bro. Adam Duprè at the Channelside Wharf for New Years fireworks and festivities.



## In pursuit of reconciliation, justice and peace

(ANS - Abuja) - The terrorist attacks against Christian churches on Christmas Day itself have shaken and disturbed the whole Christian community in Nigeria. The Salesians in the country, while being aware of the present dangers continue with their usual efforts: on behalf of the young and promoting their all-round development, irrespective of their religious beliefs

[Read more](#)

## St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Outreach

Sts Peter and Paul Church

The St. Vincent de Paul Society with volunteers and merchants helped make the parish Christmas dinner for needier neighbors a real success. Many people and ages were involved in the preparations. There is a nice slideshow of the volunteers preparing and making the gym to look great. You can see it [here](#).



The SVdP Director, Marc Bruno, directs one of the young volunteers.

## CHRISTMAS 2011

### Sierra Leone



Also this Christmas 2011 the parishioners of the Valley Church in Watsonville, did not forget the children of the Salesian Mission in Lungi, Sierra Leone.

According to Father Sergej Gorman, SDB, the donations from Watsonville brought happiness to 2000 children at the youth center in Tintafor and at the outstations of Tagrin and Madina



## Strenna 2012

Here then is the spiritual and pastoral programme for the year 2012:

LET US MAKE THE YOUNG OUR LIFE'S MISSION  
BY COMING TO KNOW AND IMITATE DON BOSCO



## Strenna for 2012: Coming to know the life history of Don Bosco

(ANS - Rome) - For the Salesian Family, 2012 is a year dedicated to going back to the life story of Don Bosco and coming to know it better. As is his custom, the Rector Major officially presented the Strenna at the Generalate of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. At the simple but heartfelt occasion among those present were Mother Yvonne Reungoat, the Councillors, Fr Alberto Lorenzelli, Provincial of Central Italy and some other Salesians and members of the Salesian Family.

The Strenna for 2012, which the Rector Major entrusts to the Salesian Family, continues along the lines he gave to the Salesians in view of the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco (1815-2015) and officially launched on 16 August. The 28 groups of the Salesian Family are being called to come to know in depth the life story of Don Bosco in order to re-

present his image today and to continue the mission entrusted to them: the education and the evangelisation of the young.

[The commentary on the Strenna](#) - available on [sdb.org](http://sdb.org) - takes the reader on a journey that is both historical and spiritual.

[Read more](#)

## Two videos in coming to know the life story of Don Bosco

(ANS - Rome) - Collaboration between the Department for Social Communication and Missioni Don Bosco means that once again this year it is possible to have an audiovisual aid to introduce and to study the Strenna of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family. The box already

being distributed to the houses of the Salesians and of the FMA, contains two videos: one with the presentation of the subject of the Strenna and another a documentary which describes the places in which Don Bosco lived providing an historical and spiritual itinerary.

[Read more](#)

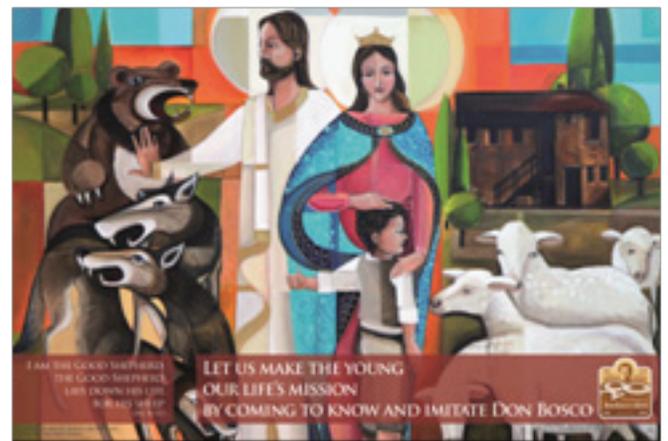
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*The greatest power of Don Bosco's charism is the love drawn directly from the Lord Jesus, imitating him and remaining in Him. This love consists in "giving everything." From this stems his apostolic vow: "I promised God that until my dying breath I would dedicate myself entirely to my poor boys." (BM XVIII, 216; cf. C. SDB 1).*

**This is our trade mark and our credibility with the young!**

Fr. Paschal Chavez, SDB

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31 December 2011

**Shivta**

The prosperity of Shivta in the Byzantine period (especially on the 5th - 7th c. CE) was founded on extensive and highly developed agriculture as well as economic activities in relation with Christian pilgrim.

The impressive remains of the city includes three Christian churches (later a Muslim mosque as well), residential areas, large courtyards and public squares, administrative buildings, streets and small lanes creating an elaborate urban network.

Wine-presses, terraces, and various remains of agricultural structures and of complex irrigation system were visible in the city and its surroundings.



# Biblical Glimpse

by Itchan Laygo, SDB

## Shivta National Park

The City of Shivta or Sobota or Subeitah or Subaytah (in Hebrew) is an archaeological site in the Negev Desert of Israel, east of Nitzana.

It has been long considered that together with its sister-cities, Avdat and Mamshit, the city of Shivta began as a caravan stop in the Negev for the Nabatean masters of the Incense Route, and flourished after Christianity, during the Byzantine period, came to the Negev in the fourth century.

However, the new assessment of modern archeologist is based on an analysis of the irrigation system found at the site, which



bears parallels to Byzantine structures elsewhere made considering the possibility that the town was actually a Byzantine agricultural colony. and a way station for pilgrims en route to the Santa Catarina, Egypt, (possible route for the Holy Family towards |

Egypt) located on the supposed site of Mount Sinai.

After the Arab conquest in the 7th Century CE, Shivta began to decline in population. It was finally abandoned in the 8th or 9th Century CE.

**Inside this issue:**

- Shivta National Park 1
- Photo Collage of STS Archeological Class Trips 2



Baptismal Font



Shivta's people were mainly farmers, who carefully collected every rare drop of rain because of its scarcity around its desert terrain. Its two churches, still visible (along with a cruciform baptismal font), were magnets for pilgrims. A modern-day orchard north of the site utilizes ancient methods to raise various fruits.

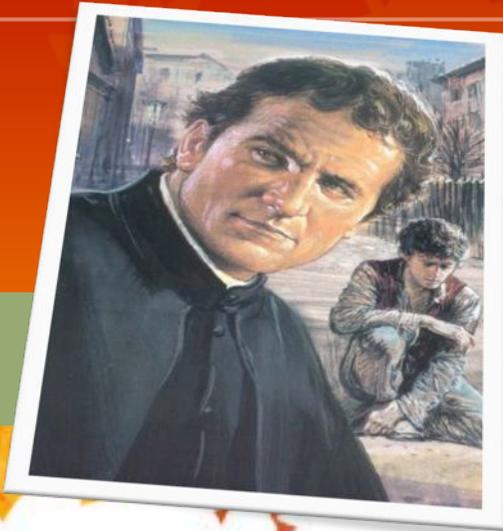


City's Water Systems for the purpose of collecting rainwater and distribution throughout the city.

BEERSHEBA, NEGEV PHOTO COLLAGE (1st Semester 2011)

Cities of Avdat, Mamshit & Shivta / Maqtash Ramon & Gadol





# Exploring Don Bosco

A Three Night Study and Reflection Series  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Evening One

Evening Two

Evening Three

**Don Bosco  
in His Time**

**Post-modern  
Don Bosco?**

**The Young  
Adult Bosco**

In Northern California: DON BOSCO HALL BERKELEY

Monday January 9, 2012

Tuesday January 10, 2012

Wednesday January 11, 2012

In Southern California: SALESIAN RESIDENCE LOS ANGELES

**Tuesday January 17, 2012** **Wednesday January 18, 2012** **Thursday January 19, 2012**

This evening explores Don Bosco's historical and cultural settings which shaped his vision and mission. Understanding those influences help us to "begin afresh" from his perspective to enable our times to intersect with his.



Can the historical figure of Don Bosco offer insight for our own time and place situated within a post-modern crisis of meaning? What clues has this saint left us for navigating our way back to the "meta-story" of the Gospel?

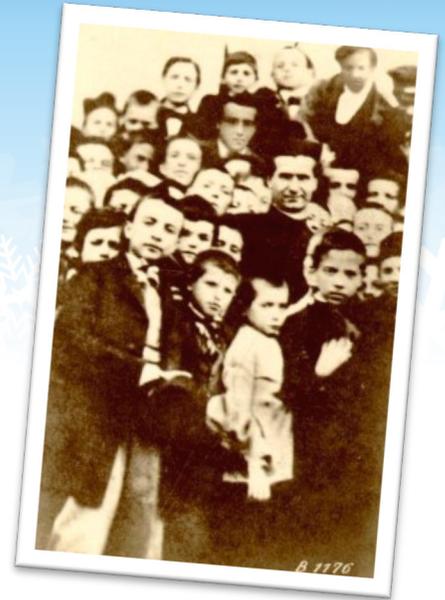
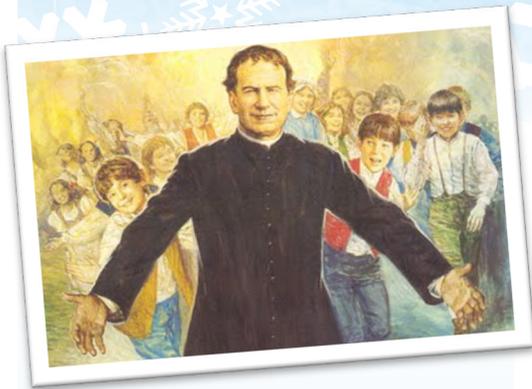
Examining the young adult Giovanni Bosco, on his way to his mission and taking the first steps in his dreams, offers us a rich model of discernment and faith. Looking at his friendships, his seeking out mentors and spiritual guides, and his own ascetic choices offers today's young adult a roadmap for mission and an itinerary for everyday holiness.

There is no fee for this series.

INSTITUTE FOR SALESIAN SPIRITUALITY PRESENTS...

# A Special Retreat on Don Bosco

*The Don Bosco Retreats are offered for young adults and adults of the Salesian Family: members of Salesian parishes, youth centers, school faculties and staff, adult past pupils, and collaborators in the Salesian Mission. This weekend experience will offer reflection, discussion, and prayer around the life of Don Bosco, his place in history, and his impact on our lives and ministries today*



## “Don Bosco In History”

**January 6-8, 2012**  
**Don Bosco Hall**  
**Berkeley**

**Early Spring**  
**Los Angeles Area**  
**Location & Dates TBA**

**The retreat begins at 7:00 PM on Friday evening and concludes at lunch on Sunday.**

**Cost for materials, meals and lodging for 3 days inclusive, \$60.00**

### Retreat Registration

Mail registration to Don Bosco Hall 1831 Arch Street, Berkeley, CA 94709 or Fax to (510) 704-1925

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

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

*Check which retreat you would like to attend.*

January 6-8 Berkeley

Early Spring 2012, Los Angeles

*Checks payable to Salesians of Don Bosco. Space is limited. Register by **December 29, 2011.***