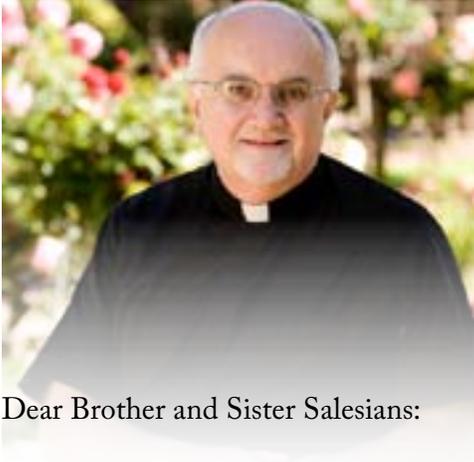




# INTOUCH

August 2  
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Two weeks from today, August 16, all of us in the Salesian world will launch the second year of our preparation for Don Bosco's 200th birthday. After this first year in which we have concentrated on coming to know Don Bosco better in order to imitate him and make his life's mission to the young our own, now we want to get closer to Don Bosco *the educator*. And so the strenna that Don Bosco's successor Pascual Chavez gives us for this year is **Like Don Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness.**

In effect this is a call to rediscover the preventive system, both our method and our spirituality as Salesian educators. And of course this applies to us all, not just to those in school settings. In his brief presentation of the strenna, the Rector Major suggests that rediscovering the preventive system will have us facing three critical questions if we really want to recapture that pedagogy of kindness, the preventive system: What does "the upright citizen and good Christian" look like in the 21st century? Who exactly are those young people to whom we offer the Gospel of joy? And what can "education is a matter of the heart" mean for us today? Last week I reflected on the first of the three. Today the second one.

Our mission is to the young, especially the poor and most abandoned. But each one of us, and especially each community in common search for the will of God, must work to identify exactly who these young people, for whom God has consecrated us with a Salesian vocation, are. Limiting the answer to the young people who pay to come to our schools, who register in our parishes and religious education programs, who sign up for our youth centers and clubs, is far from enough. The young people in front of us in our programs and institutions are only the first ones for whom we live, work, study, and are ready even to give our lives along with our founder.

But beyond them lies a world of abandoned youth to whom God sends us as well. On the retreat this week, Fr. Fabio Attard, General Councilor for Youth Ministry, is inviting us to see that the greatest challenge of our mission today, is to know God! Knowledge of the world of youth, teacher certifications and even national certificates in youth ministry are important, yes, but of secondary importance. First we must know God, for he sends us to the young, he is waiting to meet us there, he is waiting for us to use our intelligence and our heart to develop and perfect the gift of "predilection for the young" with which he graces our vocation. As our Rule of Life puts it, "The witness of such holiness, achieved within the Salesian mission, . . . is the most precious gift we can offer to the young" (C 25).

Sincerely,

Rev. Timothy Ploch, SDB  
Provincial

## Provincial's Calendar

### August 2012

- 7/29 - Confreres' Retreat, San Juan Bautista
- 8/3
- 4 Travel to Laredo, TX
- 5 Perpetual Profession, Sr. Cynthia Salas, FMA
- 6 Travel to San Francisco
- 7-8 Office Days
- 9-11 New Director's Workshop, Fr. Chinh Nguyen, SDB
- 12 St. Luke's Parish, Stockton
- 13 Office Day
- 14 Arrival at LAX of new SUE Novices
- 15 Reception of 2012-2013 Novices
- 16-18 Provincial Council Meeting, San Francisco

## Please Pray for our Sick

**Mrs. Elizabeth Alvarez**  
*mother of Mike Alvarez*

**Fr. Chris Woerz, SDB**  
*foot surgery*

**Mrs. Thresiamma Paradayil**  
*mother of  
Fr. Joseph Matthew  
aged 82  
intensive care after three  
heart attacks*

**Val Colussi**  
*hospitalized, stitches after a  
fall*

**Bro. Noel DeBruton**  
**Bro. Druno DePretto**  
**Bro. Tony Freitas**  
**Fr. John Malloy**  
**Bro. Phil Mandile**

*HEARFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR*

## **SALESIAN SISTERS**

*AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 140<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE INSTITUTE OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY  
HELP OF CHRISTIANS*

*AUGUST 5, 2012*



## **Youth Spelling “Don Bosco”**



On July...

St. Dominic Savio Parish host a summer program that brought together over 500 children and youth. In this summer camp the Salesians were able to help over 137 children who did not have any other place to spend in their summer. All these Thanks to all the Salesian Family who came together to serve these young people. In the picture we can see how the youth are spelling “Be Don Bosco”



## Camp Savio 2012 wraps it up

By Adriana Dugquem

Close to two hundred counselors and well over three hundred campers, we did what most thought was the impossible: we had a successful summer that was led by the youth of St. Dominic Savio Church. This year was unlike any other. Not only were we able to maintain the size of Camp 2011, but also this year, we were able to help send a record number of sixty families (134 campers) to camp this year, thanks to donations and fundraisers.

Our last week, we had a few special events planned for the campers. On Tuesday, we celebrated a good season with "Savio Fiesta," a fun celebration that had carnival activities, such as "Pie in the Face," bouncers, and even a dunk-tank. The day after, our middle school boys and girls went on a special field trip to Six Flags, where some had experience their last field trips as campers. "I definitely will be coming back to Camp Savio next year, but next time as a counselor." Says eighth grade camper, Lindsey. Thursday we had our "Aqua Day," so the entire camp can cool off after a hot summer. Campers and counselors were allowed to bring water toys such as water balloons, water guns, and much more. We finished the week off with our Friday Talent Show, where each grade presented a little routine to perform for the camp and their families. At the end of the talent show, the entire camp was able to watch a video of the entire camp season, which is now available on YouTube or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/campsavio](http://www.facebook.com/campsavio).



middle school boys.

After a fun night, the campers woke up and said goodbye to their counselors for many this was a sad moment. That but even with a tearful goodbye for both campers and counselors, we can all agree on one thing: Camp Savio 2013, here we come.

After the talent show, many of the campers had said goodbye, but plenty had stayed for the Camp Savio Overnighter, where we had our midnight spirit rally. An exhilarating and spirited night, the spirit rally ended with a victory for Third grade and our

### InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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

## A Day in the Life of a Counselor

By Adriana Dugquem

He's fifteen years old, a member of the St. John Bosco Volleyball team, and next year he will be a Junior in High School. His name is Eddie Gutierrez, and he seems like your average teenager.



But Eddie is different.

How? He's different because he chose to make a difference.

For the past three years, Eddie has worked his summers as a Counselor here at Camp Savio. He first began camp as a camper when he was in eighth grade. He was influenced to become a counselor after his older sister Jessica served as one for a year, and has continued to enjoy his time here at Savio. "My personal favorite session is playground; you get to feel like a little kid again." Eddie and many of our counselors can often be seen playing tag

or kickball with the campers; a nice break that our camp has to enjoy some fresh air as well as getting to know the campers, allowing our counselors to create a bond with the campers. "I remember when I started my second year, the campers that I had the year before saw me, and came running up to me. All they would do is hug me and say 'I missed you! I missed you!' It made me think that I'm actually making a difference, and I'm only a teenager. That moment inspired me to continue doing camp because I just want to be able to touch more hearts." He says.

But Eddie isn't the only one making the difference; he states that Camp has actually changed him for them better. "I don't know how to describe it, but there is just this special

thing about Camp. In high school, you don't see people cheering in the halls or see them going out of their way to help a person out. Here, at camp, you meet so many awesome people that allow you to just be yourself. You don't have to put up a front; they love you for who you are here."

And not only Eddie, but one hundred fifty young counselors can say that Savio is more than just church, a playground, and a school; to them, it is a home.

# Camp St. Francis 2012

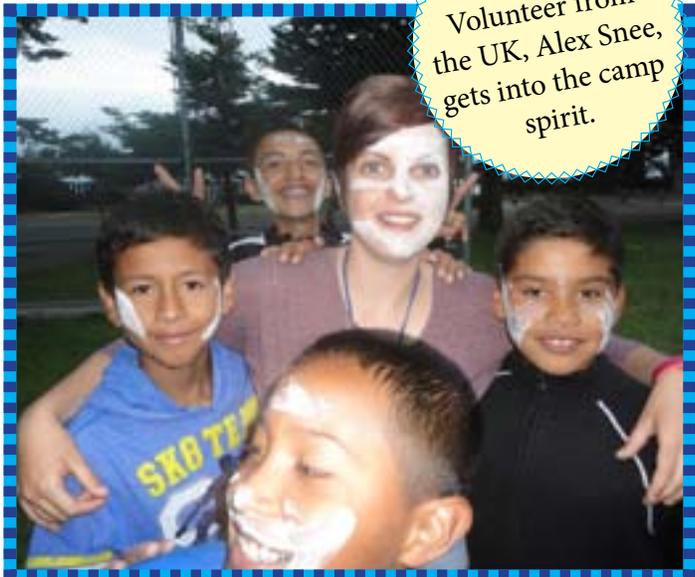
On Thursday, July 27, 2012 Monterey Bishop Richard Garcia came to visit.



Salesian  
Volunteer from  
the UK, Alex Snee,  
gets into the camp  
spirit.



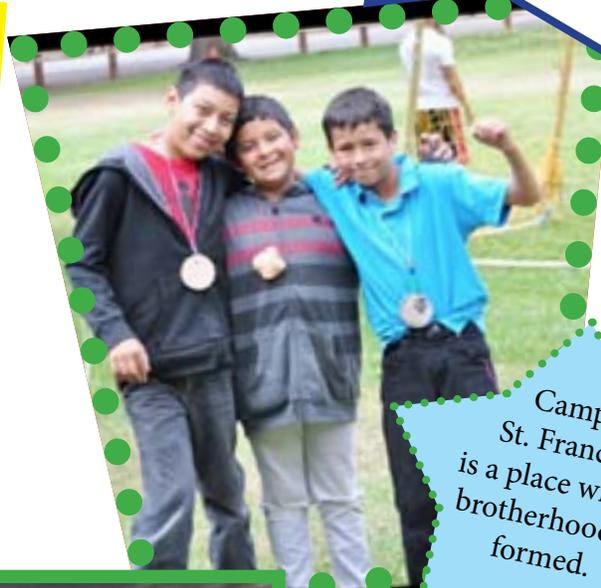
With every  
bed filled, the  
final week of camp  
was full of good  
fun!





Nothing beats a great day of activity at the beach. (with Novice John Langan and camp counselor Sean Roche)

Camp St. Francis welcomed Salesian Volunteers David and Montana from Sevilla Spain.



Camp St. Francis is a place where brotherhood is formed.



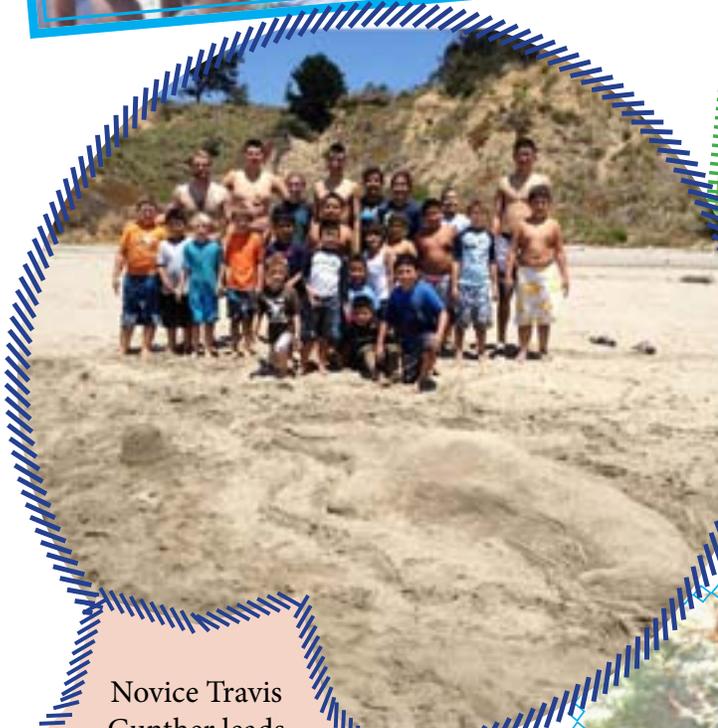
Three SDB theology students from the Antilles province helped the campers dominate the Counselor-Camper Soccer Game. Campers won 3-2 (from left to right) Deacon Elvis, Deacon Rodolfo, and Deacon Oscar.



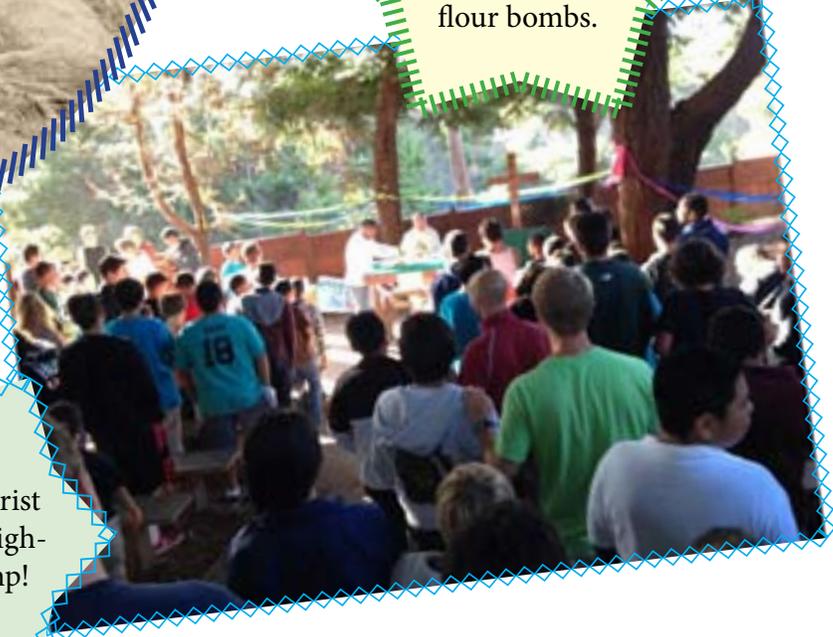
Youngest CSF camper Brian has Novice Steve DeMaio's back.



Keeping with the tradition of Sand Wars, Novice Duoc Le helps to animate the fun with flour bombs.



Novice Travis Gunther leads the youngest campers in creating the award winning sand sculpture.



Daily Eucharist is always a highlight at camp!

Deacons Rodolfo Duran, Elvis Batista and Oscar Almonte (left to right) from the Dominican Republic visited St. John Bosco High School for dinner on July 31. They had spent three busy but happy weeks at St. Francis Camp in Watsonville where they helped with music, assistance, cheers. Great soccer players and a great love for our kids. They will return to Guadalajara for their final year of theology on August 7. Thanks for helping out.

*First line: Candidate Joaquin Oliveros, Fr Tom Juarez SDB, Prenovice Jhoni Chamorro, Larry.*

*Behind: Deacons: Rodolfo Duran SDB, Elvis Batista SDB and Oscar Almontes SDB.*



## KNOWING DON BOSCO PASCUAL CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA

### *Communicating effectively in order to evangelise and educate*



*From being a boy John Bosco had the gift of being able to communicate effectively. A personal gift: fascination with words, the art of story-telling inherited from a rich ancient oral tradition, put at the service of the mission for an educative and pastoral purpose. Writing about himself as a boy surrounded by companions he says: « But it was to hear my stories that they flocked round me. They loved them to the point of folly. I drew on many sources for my anecdotes-sermons, catechism lessons, and stories I had read in The Kings of France, in Wretched Guerino, and*

*in Bertolo and Bertoldino. When I appeared, my companions and even grown-ups would run to me in a crowd and clamour for a story from a fellow who scarcely understood what he had read.*

[More](#)

At times, along the road to Castelnuovo or in some field I would be surrounded by hundreds of people, anxious to hear what a poor child had to say. Apart from a good memory, I lacked any knowledge; but they seemed to think I was a great scholar in their midst. «In the kingdom of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.» (MO ed. 2011, p. 65-66). Having become a priest he was inundated by requests: «I am invited to go now here now there to preach triduum, novenas or days of recollection, but I don't dare to move from here not knowing who to leave to look after the

house. How much good we could do » he wrote to Fr Alasonatti in the early days of the Oratory. Having so much to do with boys and young people, Don Bosco was a great story-teller. His way of teaching was through stories, his spirituality was through stories, the training of his co-workers was through stories, the public information he gives about his plans and what he is doing is through stories. The subject matter of the stories is the Christian life as it is lived, the Word of God and the practical example of the saints, people's virtuous actions and their good deeds, the positive results obtained through the efforts in education and formation at the Oratory, the works achieved, his dreams and his ideals.

[Read More](#)

## CAMP CORPUS CHRISTI IS IN OUR 8TH AND FINAL WEEK OF AN AMAZING SALESIAN EXPERIENCE

We normally host camp for 5 weeks but this week we went to 8 weeks at the request of the parents. AS a result we've had many more kids come to camp from last year. We had a consistent 40 kids at camp this year along with 10 CIT's, 15 junior staff and 10 adult staff, overall providing a great camp experience for over 75 people at Corpus Christi.



We offered activities such Game room, outdoor sports, Arts & Crafts, Music, Storytelling, Swimming, ICED (imaginative, creative, educative discoveries). Some examples were learning a new language & baking; cookies, cupcakes, cake, and the kids learned how to make pancakes.

Since this was a Salesian Camp, we had Mass every Friday whereby the children actively participated in all the ministries including acting out the gospel.

Each week we attended a special field trip which some examples are; Great America, Water World, Blackberry Farm, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Camp St. Francis the Academy of Sciences, etc...

At the beginning of the camp season we were a bit nervous about going 8 weeks (as it is a super long summer) but as each week progressed, the staff united and felt even stronger and were delighted to greet the campers each subsequent week. Each week camp seemed better than the previous week, and each day was awesome. Evaluations took place each day at the end of the day to evaluate the level of fun taking place for all so that we can all have a great Salesian Experience.



*Raf*

We lived out the Don Bosco Oratory and provided a space for Prayer, School, Church and Playground.



The elevator tower

# Things are looking up . . .

By Brother Joseph Lockwood, SDB

All of the up-graded framing on the first floor is complete and has passed inspection. The carpenters worked late into the evening to finish the structural up-grading as requested by the inspector.

The elevator tower is painted and looks really good. It is only missing the silhouette of Don Bosco on the north side (toward the football field).

As you might remember, many walls had to be opened up for electrical work, installing strapping and other construction work. Once that work was done, the wall

coat of the mud. By the end of the week the second floor will be painted.

The electricians are finishing the wiring for the lights in the chapel. They also installed the new electric service pad. SCE (Southern California Edison) will install the new transformer and pull the new wire to the new electrical panel on the west side of the building.

Mitsubishi Elevator Company will begin to assemble the elevator on Monday (August 6). They are planning to take about three weeks to complete the process.

was patched with new dry wall. The new dry wall had to be taped and a coat of primer paint applied. The primer paint and the existing wall paint did not match. The painting contractor sprayed the walls with what is called a skin coat of paint. The finish coat of paint was applied and the third floor is now complete.

The tapers are now finishing up with the patching and taping. The next step is to do a light sanding and then apply another light



Sobrino Perez taping the dry wall ceiling joints



Jose Perez using a joint tapping machine in the bedroom



The electricians installing the new SCE transformer pad



The typical sheet metal strapping that was required by the City though the building





Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

## A "Muslim Salesian"



**D**ear Salesians and friends of the Salesian Mission,

This month of August 2012, a group of SDB and FMA will gather together in the Salesianum, Rome the Third Study Days on the Salesian presence among the Muslims. The first meeting of this kind was a seminar in Cairo (Egypt, 1988) and the second meeting was in Rome (2001). We want to reflect together on the meaning, possibilities, and challenges based on our experiences in many countries of the world where we are in daily contact with our Muslim brothers and sisters in the school, oratory, church or social work.

We have already many Salesians from Indonesia, Pakistan and several African countries that come from Muslim cultures, some even come from mixed Muslim - Catholic families. Even the Salesians of Europe are called to learn more about the Islamic religion and culture for balanced and wise approach in educa-

tion. Among our many past pupils there many who are proud to be Muslim and Salesian thanks to the Preventive System of Don Bosco. Prof. Francesco Zannini writes in the *Mondo e Missione*: "I still remember the words of a certain Hamdi, an Egyptian, who called himself a 'Muslim Salesian'. He was proud to be a student of the Salesian Institute in Cairo where, beside receiving an education, he had lived with other Christian students, and where his Islamic faith had been enriched by the contribution their Christian friends and teachers". (<http://www.missionline.org/index.php?l=it&art=4597>). Inter-religious dialogue between Christians and Muslims is one of the most important signs of our times. There are many resources available to all to know not only the 5 pillars of Islam, but also the different traditions and customs that help young people understand the other religion, like this website in eight languages (<http://tinyurl.com/cajy4le>).

An event that brings together some Salesians is an invitation to all of us to grow every day in the style of life that is called 'dialogue': It removes prejudices, deepens the reasons for the faith and journeys together in charity and truth.

I hope that the wealth of material that will be shared during the Study Days in Rome would become an impulse for all the confreres in Africa, Asia and Europe who, though they are close to Islamic reality every day, yet have no deep knowledge of its dynamics!

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

***In the course of history force has also been used in the name of the Christian faith.***

“The religious delegates who were assembled in Assisi in 1986 wanted to say, and we now repeat it emphatically and firmly: this is not the true nature of religion. It is the antithesis of religion and contributes to its destruction. In response, an objection is raised: how do you know what the true nature of religion is? Does your assertion not derive from the fact that your religion has become a spent force? Others in their turn will object: is there such a thing as a common nature of religion that finds expression in all religions and is therefore applicable to them all? We must ask ourselves these questions, if we wish to argue realistically and credibly against religiously motivated violence. Herein lies a fundamental task for interreligious dialogue - an exercise which is to receive renewed emphasis through this meeting. As a Christian I want to say at this point: yes, it is true, in the course of history, force has also been used in the name of the Christian faith. We acknowledge it with great shame. But it is utterly clear that this was an abuse of the Christian faith, one that evidently contradicts its true nature. .”

*Benedict XVI, Assisi October 27, 2011*



I belonged to a Buddhist family but some of my sister's friends were Catholics so she joined them in some church activities. One day, my sister expressed her desire to become Catholic. It was then that my father told the whole family that before dying, our grandfather told my father that he was told that our forefathers were Catholics and he asked my father to look for our Catholic relatives. He not only permitted my sister, he surprisingly added: "I want our whole family to become Catholic according to the wish of Grandpa."

The nearest church to our house was run by the Salesians and my sister came to know Fr. Fabian Hao. She shared the story and the desire of my father to Fr. Hao who offered to help. A couple of months later, Fr. Hao told my father that he had gone to our grandfather's birthplace and he found our Catholics relatives there and one even became a priest. With that news, my father decided that our whole family would convert back to Catholicism. Our whole family supported my father's decision except me. They all started to study the catechism without me. I resisted but with the help of Fr. Hao I eventually decided to join my family. On December 22, 1992 Fr. Hao baptised our whole family.

A month later my father was diagnosed to be with cancer. The death of my father, a few months later, hit me hard but I was even more overwhelmed by the support given by Fr. Hao to my father during his illness and to our family after he passed away. I finally asked my sister to take me to Fr. Hao. I told him that I do not know what consecrated life is all about but I just want to be like him. So I became an aspirant while working to support my family. After reading the biographies of Don Bosco, Bl. Artemide Zatti and Simon Sruji I became more determined to be a Salesian brother.

One day, while cleaning an old bookshelf in the prenoviciate, I saw a book narrating how missionaries in Vietnam suffered and died during persecution for the sake of Christ. This was the seed of my missionary vocation. I shared this desire to be a missionary *ad gentes* with my novice master and rector in the post-noviciate. In 2000 I applied and I was sent to Papua New Guinea to study in Don Bosco Technological Institute in preparation for my mission in Mongolia.



When confreres ask me why I want to be a missionary abroad while we have a lot of people in Vietnam who do not know Christ. I simply respond: "We have received so much from other missionaries even at the cost of their lives. I just feel that we also have duty to share our faith in Christ". I am sure God will bless us abundantly for our generosity. He will send more people to take my place in the Province.

Since 2004 I have been happily working in Mongolia as a missionary Salesian brother. Thanks to the Salesians, witness of life which touched my stubborn Buddhist heart and led me to Christ and my Salesian vocation. Above all, thanks to God for the marvellous things he has done for me!

*Br. Andrew Tran Le Phuong  
vietnamese, missionary in Mongolia*



## **Salesian Missionary Intention**

### **Salesians Working in Islamic contexts, especially in Indonesia**

**That the Salesians immersed in Islamic context, especially those of the young Delegation of Indonesia may discern the possibilities of the mission of witness.**



*At the beginning of August Salesians immersed in Islamic areas of the Middle East and the Gulf, Europe, Africa, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, South and East Asia will gather. Let us pray that all the Salesian communities immersed in Islamic culture and religion, may discern the possibilities of the mission of witness and patient educational commitment. In a special way we pray for the young Delegation of Indonesia that was created in 2010 which is composed by 5 communities and 60 confreres many of whom are young and almost all of Indonesian origin .*