



# Nouvelles Salésiennes Salesian News

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## ABOUT THE WYD, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

I am happy to share a few thoughts on World Youth Day, in Sydney, Australia. Our **Don Bosco Canada** group was 44 people strong, from Missione Maria Ausiliatrice (Montreal), St. Benedict (Toronto) and Our Lady of Good Counsel (Surrey, B.C.). Our pilgrimage lasted from July 1 to 28. Sydney was my sixth WYD experience; so while these most recent thoughts come from Australia, they also reflect the “WYD culture” that is growing within the Church.

Through WYD, the ancient practice of spiritual pilgrimage has been re-invented for modern youth. It introduces them to the “**catholicity**” of the **Church**, and to the importance of the role of unity offered by **the successor of St. Peter**. It draws them into the paschal mystery through fellowship and a lived experience of the sacraments.

The physical journey to Sydney was an apt metaphor for the spiritual journey that our young people do desire to make. As a Salesian, I found it was also a metaphor for our mission as faith educators to the young. One line from Pope Benedict’s homily at the closing Mass captured this for me personally: *One mission, lived fully, is more important than a thousand options never taken.*

WYD resonates for me as a Salesian with the same pastoral genius as Don Bosco’s Oratory: the power of the “educative environment” to communicate a message even before a word is spoken; the group experience that is for many young people the first—if not the most meaningful—experience of “Church.” In this faith-friendly environment, inhibitions drop. Joyful throngs of young people come to life in the simplicity of laughter shared in good company. They participate spontaneously in prayer, they experience a spiritual awakening and a humble questioning of their faith. Many find new courage to voice old fears and doubts that

previously lay silent in their hearts. They desire a personal encounter with Christ in confession and the Eucharist. As a confessor, it was inspiring for me to be the Lord’s minister of forgiveness in 3 languages, to young people from across the globe.

As an ecclesial event, WYD has no parallel. Where else can young people experience both the “Magisterium-in-action” and the paternal leadership of the episcopacy in such a personal, unintimidating, youth-friendly way? At morning catechesis, young people learn from bishops and ask them questions. How easy it is to discuss the bishop’s role to teach, guide and sanctify after they’ve had the experience in a positive way! Furthermore, in the light of the Pope’s charism to attract crowds, linked with Benedict’s more reserved character, it has become increasingly clear to the young pilgrims that we attend WYD not to see the Pope, but to encounter Christ, to whom the Pope points and around whom the faithful gather in unity for direction and leadership.

The theme for WYD Sydney was from Acts 1:8, *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.* In big ways and in small ways, this new Pentecost has begun. At the end of WYD, one Toronto pilgrim shared her appreciation of the Holy Father’s words at the Prayer Vigil regarding the Holy Spirit. Because of that talk, she said, “I can now pray to the Holy Spirit as someone I know, as someone I can listen to. Before, I knew that I was supposed to believe in the Holy Spirit as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Trinity, but now He is much more alive for me.” One Montreal pilgrim was touched by the Spirit at Lake Garibaldi outside Vancouver, where the “sheer beauty of the mountain and the lake made me feel God so close to me, like never before. I had to be alone for a while to say *thanks.*” Especially for first-time WYD pilgrims, the power of the Holy Spirit was felt in the sheer volume of Catholic

young people, together in one place, simply because they are Catholic. This was a powerful antidote to the isolation of our post-modern age, in a world that increasingly “privatizes” religion. The Holy Spirit empowered the young to pray in public, and thus to have taken one significant step forward as witnesses to Christ.

Fr. Mike Pace

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**MONTREAL** Fr. Mike Pace and Bro. Bernie Dubé, responsible for youth ministry at provincial level, arrived from Toronto on June 9. They met with Theo Vecera and Nadia Martone, the youth ministers of our parish, to draw up common lines of action.

In mid-June some 40 persons stopped here from Surrey and Toronto on their way to Quebec City, where they took part in the International Eucharistic Congress. Bro. Bernie and Fr. George Harkins accompanied them. Families of our parish gave them hospitality, and the next day they were on their way to the Congress. On the same day, we welcomed Bro. Jim Zettel, hailing from New Rochelle, N.Y., where he has spent the year teaching in our high school. He is spending the summer with us as animator at our summer camp. Meanwhile Fr. Tito left for Toronto, where he has studied English till the end of July so as to be more prepared to exercise his ministry in our parish.

About 20 parishioners joined with those of the Consolata Parish to participate at the conclusion of the Congress. The inclement weather did not prevent them from attending a very moving Eucharist on the Plains of Abraham, presided over by the papal legate, Card. Tomko. Pope Benedict XVI delivered the homily live from the Vatican.

Our parish has a group called the “JP2” (John Paul II); it is formed of young people who have received the sacrament of Confirmation. They lived a very original experience on June 23, a kind of mini-retreat. About 50 of them bicycled from our parish to the neighbouring Salesian parish of St. Joseph. Upon arrival, they went into church, had a half hour of adoration, and then bicycled back to the youth centre, where they spent a pleasant evening with their parents. Night prayer and the traditional “good night” closed the day.

The day after the national feast of St. John the Baptist, two busloads of pilgrims were on their way to the sanctuary of the Sacred Heart in Beauvoir in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, guided by Fr. Luc. They also visited some sites of the city and stopped by Savio Camp on their way back.

As you know, our parish also organises a summer camp. It lasts 7 weeks, and Fr. Richard is the camp director (in this, a faithful disciple of his one-time “catechist “at St. Pat’s, Fr. Ted Ciampi. Many will recall how Fr. Ted would solemnly announce, after each camp season, “*This is my last season as camp master...!*”). It began almost immediately after school ended, and some 50 animators took care of those 430 youths divided into various age groups. At mid-season, the sacrament of Reconciliation was offered to all the groups over 2 days; besides, every Friday, they gather in church for a Eucharist. They then go on to their daily recreational activities.

At the end of June, there was the registration for catechism for the year 2008-2009. Until now, some 950 children and youths have signed their inscription. On the feast of Sts. Peter & Paul, at the Sunday English Mass, Fr. Luc presided over the commissioning of 8 young adults who a few days later joined those of Toronto to participate at WYD in Sydney, Australia. All in all, some 44 young adults, guided by Fr. Mike, spent a few days in Vancouver to then went on to Australia.

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**SHERBROOKE.** Hier, les vacances commençaient; aujourd’hui l’année scolaire est à la veille de recommencer...! Réchauffement de la planète, accélération de l’histoire...? Qui a dit que tout est en relation dans l’univers?

L’été au Séminaire se passe plutôt paisiblement. Non pas que tout est en suspend... Il y a les activités estivales. Les divers camps: les 3 semaines de *Bosco Bicycle* ont pris fin le 18 juillet, le camp *Vivre l’Anglais* prenait fin en même temps au Camp Savio (et d’autres groupes se succèdent depuis), *Bosco II* a été choyé par sa semaine dans les Montagnes Blanches, le camp de jour du quartier nord de la ville se termine le 8 de cette semaine. Les travaux d’été à l’école avancent, tant à



under the capable direction of Mr. Egitto and Mr. Vilio, who have over 20 years teaching experience combined. The camp is inspired by St. John Bosco, its patron, and has Salesian spiritual leadership provided by Fr. Dave. Activities and sports included at the camp are: basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, tennis, fitness training, core conditioning, games, snacks, a pizza lunch on Fridays, and tons of fun. They were completely sold out on a first-come, first-served basis.

The *PRAISE TEAM* summer dance workshops got underway in OLG School Auditorium with one-hour afternoon sessions beginning with tap, then hip-hop, modern, etc. They have a large group of energetic and youthful participants learning the various steps.

July 10 had Bro. Jerry flying to Saskatoon, Sask., and then by bus for two hours and a 40-minute trip to Melford for his first family reunion of the Lindberg generation (his grandfather—who hailed from Denmark) on his mother's side of the family. About 100 of the clan journeyed from as far as 900 miles by car from Nebraska, and from all areas east and west for this special occasion. Brother met third-, fourth- and fifth-generation cousins he didn't even know existed, many from his grandfather's brothers' side of family. It certainly is a small world when it comes to discovering relatives, and it has created an interest in his family tree especially on his father's side of the family, which originally hails from Austria (Galicia) and Poland.

Our *Praise Team* dancers, by invitation, attended the International Dance Challenge held in Orlando, Fla., July 18-20. They raised funds, and with the help of sponsors were able to fly there and pay for their accommodations. To the wonderful surprise of all, and literally after numerous hours of hard work and practice, they reached their peak and were awarded first place honours in this competition, winning not only one, but two Platinum 1<sup>st</sup> Place finishes in different dance divisions. They also received the Artstone Global Entertainment Award, with an offer to buy the rights to their arcadia dance routine. Mickey Reyes (son of Beth Reyes, our youth coordinator) won a dance scholarship to New York City. We are certainly proud of our *Praise Team's*

accomplishments.

The community enjoyed a deanery cookout at St. Bernadette's Parish on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and were also invited out to another dinner treat at one of the parishioner's the following night. In a way, we have been spoiled with their many kindnesses of home-cooked goodies of thoughtfulness.

July 27 was 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Sunday for our Chaldean Community with Fr. Sarmed Biloues saying the Mass and doing the honours. He was assisted by his brother, Deacon, Sameen Biloues, who will receive the sacrament of Holy Orders Aug. 22 in our parish at the hands of his Chaldean bishop from Chicago, and by Fr. Dave. The church was packed for this very special occasion in their community.

**Fr. Mario** recently returned safe and sound to us from his visit to his homeland. He brought re-furnished chalices and ciboria, plus other goodies back with him, especially items for our parish gift shop. It was good to have him back with us after such a long absence.

Many have been inquiring about how **Fr. John Basso** is doing after his eight-day stint in Surrey Memorial Hospital. His gallbladder will eventually have to be removed. He has lost about 24 pounds through this ordeal and certainly has to watch what he eats. Meanwhile he is still experiencing weakness, no energy and sweating spells. At this point, we are not sure if he is well enough to travel to Montreal for our upcoming retreat at Manoir d'Youville. According to Dr. Shek L. Wong, MD, he may have suffered a minor heart attack. To top everything off, he recently lost a filling and has a temporary one until his dentist returns from working in the mission fields of Mexico. Fr. John would certainly appreciate your generous prayer.

This month has been extra busy with the usual amount of weddings, funerals and Baptisms, plus hospital visits keeping Frs. Dave and Jan on the go, and Bro. Jerry bringing the Eucharist to the nursing home residents while Fr. John has been available for the numerous confessions. The weather has been behaving too.

The latest and exciting news is that three of our parishioners will be entering the seminary in September. Our highland folk-dancer, Randy Sprott,

age 17, from Cloverdale has been accepted to the junior seminary of Christ the King High School in Mission, B.C. Robert D'Anna, a late vocation, age 47, has been accepted to the Oblates and will begin his training and studies also at Westminster Abbey in Mission. Finally, Glen Reed, around 35, will enter the Dominicans with the intention of priesthood.

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## **INTERVIEW: BRO. JERRY HARASYM**

### ***What can you tell us about your family?***

I was born in St. Boniface Hospital in the city of St. Boniface, Manitoba. My father was of Ukrainian decent, whereas his mother was Austrian. My mother, on the other hand, was of Danish decent and her mother was of German origin coming from Sugar Creek, Iowa. That makes me quite a mixture, and being born a Canadian on November 12, 1936.

### ***What about your childhood and youth?***

I grew up in the Winnipeg suburb of East Kildonan and attended the Redemptorist parish of St. Alphonsus, receiving all my major sacraments there. I attended St. Alphonsus School until the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, which was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto. For grades 10 and 11 I went to St. Mary's College in Brockville, Ont., where I excelled in public speaking and won the Junior Oratorical Contest of 1953-54.

### ***How did you get to know the Salesians and how did your vocation come about?***

Since my family couldn't afford to send me to St. Paul's College in Winnipeg, I began working as a lay person remained active in the parish setting. I set up a vocation display for the whole month of March – then known as “Vocation Month”—for my former grammar school. In examining all the materials, I think the brochures of the Salesians stayed with me.

A few years later when I was working at St. Patrick's Orphanage in Montreal, my spiritual director (who is a former Presentation brother, now a diocesan priest), directed me to St. Patrick's

School in Sherbrooke, Que., then run by the Salesians. The rest is all history, for I acted on his direction and corresponded with Fr. Paul Avallone first, who was director at St. Pat's, and then Fr. Duffy, until I met my first Salesian, Fr. Joseph Tyminski, as I entered the Don Bosco Technical HS—coadjutors' aspirantate—as a Son of Mary in September of 1958 in Paterson, N.J.

### ***What has been your Salesian itinerary?***

My Salesian journey has been one with its ups and downs of the 11 various places in which I have served over these past 48 years. In all honesty, my main objective has been to *bring other souls to love HIM* in serving youth through cheerfulness in the varied assignments that the Good Lord sent my way: all phases of youth leadership, camp ministry, office and parish life, including teaching visual arts and world religions in our high schools. That saw me give 22 years in the USA and the remainder here in Canada.

### ***What does being a Salesian brother mean to you and what facets of ministry do you value most?***

Being a Salesian brother has meant being a “jack-of-all-trades” where I have worn many different hats, bringing my acquired advertising degree knowledge to good use as national director of the St. Dominic Savio Club, where I was able to reach out to mission countries, the poor, and to expand a positive influence with our teens and young adults in the five parishes where Divine Providence has led me.

I valued my work with the inner-city youth at the Boys' Club in Columbus, Ohio, especially because it challenged not only the way I lived, but what I was dedicated to as a Salesian, and as a person. “*The poor we will always have with us!*” In many cases that means “*spiritually poor.*”

### ***What would you consider as one of the most meaningful experiences of your Salesian life?***

After more than 25 years in the Congregation, and in my 50<sup>th</sup> year I was allowed to take a sabbatical. I spent three months with the *L'Arche Community* in Ottawa. That period helped me to get in touch with my *humanness*. Then for another



**PARTAGEZ VOTRE JOIE**