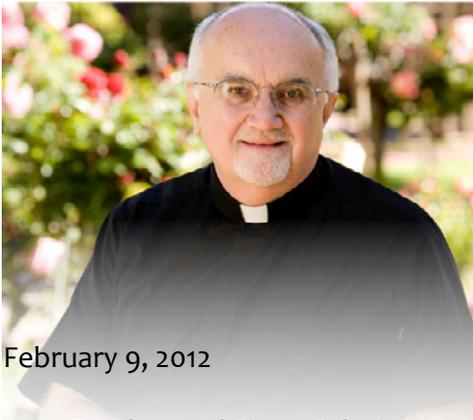




INTOUCH

Feb 9
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



February 9, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Tomorrow I begin a journey that will take me to the East Coast for the annual joint meeting of the two USA provincial councils scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, February 13 and 14. Last year we on the West Coast hosted the meeting here in Bellflower. This year the New Rochelle province will be hosting the meeting at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY. That's "stony" not "snowy." I hope.

All of us from the San Francisco provincial council will be taking part, except for Fr. Joe Farias, who got a better offer and will be taking part instead in the course for beginning provincial economists in Rome. Also at the meeting will be our regional, Fr. Esteban Ortiz, who those very days will be beginning the extraordinary visitation (February to May of this year) of the New Rochelle province.

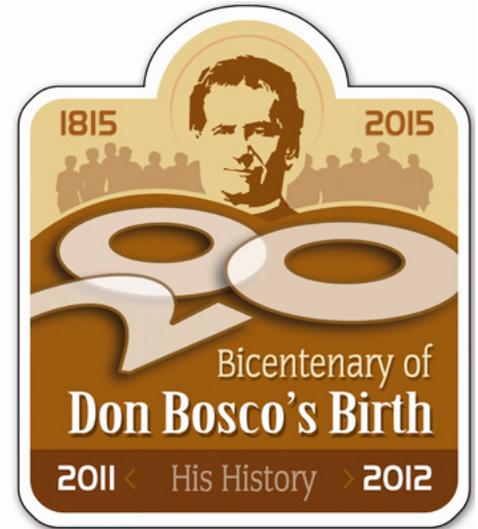
Here are some of the agenda items we will be taking up: the areas of our collaboration (personnel, initial formation, ongoing formation workshops, the Salesian Bulletin, national conventions and congresses), preparations for the

Don Bosco Bicentennial, reviewing the team visit of El Salvador and its implications for our two provinces, our lay formation programs, and the sharing of some best practices in both provinces. For our own ongoing formation the meeting will also include moments of shared reflection on the 2012 strena and on the Rector Major's "rethinking youth ministry" project. I plan to report on some of our conclusions in next week's letter. There will also be time to visit my mother and our two confreres in Orange.

However, on the way there, Fr. Tom Prendiville and I will make a stop in San Antonio, Texas. It was on February 10, 1987 that the Salesian Sisters' province of St. Philip the Apostle in Haledon, NJ, was divided and a new province was canonically established, the Province of Mary Immaculate in San Antonio, TX. Almost to the exact day, the 25th anniversary will be celebrated on February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, with San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller presiding. Tom and I are most happy to be able to represent all of Don Bosco West as our sisters give thanks to God for their first 25 years as a province in the West and launch the next phase of their growth. We bring there all the best wishes, prayers and admiration of the entire western US Salesian Family. Congratulations dear sisters!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial



Provincial's Calendar

February 2012

- 9 Office Day
- 10 Travel to TX
- 11 25th Anniversary of the FMA Western Province
San Antonio, Texas
- 12 Travel to NY
- 13-14 Joint SUE/SUO
Provincial Council Meetings
Stony Point, NY
- 15 Personal Day
- 16 Travel West
- 17 Office Day
- 18-23 Visitation, Salesian High,
Richmond
- 23 Rinaldi and Piperni Trusts
Meeting

St. Bridget Celebrates with Fr. Tim Ploch

By Michael Lau

Coinciding with his Provincial Visit to the Salesian Chinese community in Los Angeles Chinatown, on the weekend of January 28th -29th, Fr. Tim Ploch celebrated the Feast Day of Don Bosco and the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dragon, with parishioners at St. Bridget. Fr.

Tim spent the Saturday morning going over the ministerial works and meeting parishioners. In the afternoon he attended an Eagle Court of Honor for two members of St. Bridget's Boy Scout Troop 168, Eric Dong and Timothy Li, who attained their Eagle Rank after



Salesian Director & Novice Master from St. Joseph Youth Renewal Retreat Center in Rosemead and Fr. John Lam, St. Bridget's pastor, concelebrated with Fr. Tim. During the Holy Mass, under the witness of Fr. Tim, the Salesian Cooperators of St. Bridget renewed

years of training with the Scout Troop of St. Bridget.

On Sunday, the 29th, it was a busy day for Fr. Tim as he presided for Mass at St. Bridget, celebrating the Feast Day of Don Bosco as well as the Lunar New Year for the Chinese community. Fr. Bill Keane, the

their promise. Another sodality, The Holy Family Society also installed their new officers.

There was a first time experience for Fr. Tim Ploch. As the Provincial, our father figure, Fr. Tim presided over



Celebrating Don Bosco



the Chinese Ancestor Veneration. The Ancestor Veneration is a ritual practiced by the Chinese for centuries during any major celebration, particularly during the New Year, weddings and funerals, honoring and remembering those who came before us. Fr. Tim remarked he can see the similarity of Don Bosco's belief and that of the Chinese traditional values of family. The primary focus of both is based on giving priority to the development of the young. Both value the importance of education for the young. The Ancestor Veneration reminds us, particularly the young people, of our roots, honoring and remembering those that paved the way for the next generation. Fr. Tim can sense the



presence of all these virtues in St. Bridget, where the youth are given priority with much joy and every opportunity to fully develop their potential as a follower of Jesus.

After the liturgy, Fr. Tim blessed the newly renovated Youth Center at St. Bridget. He enjoyed the opportunity to mingle and met with all the parishioners, lingering after Mass over tea, coffee and other simple refreshments. He continued the afternoon sharing lunch with the members of the Holy Family Society.



Fr. Tim concluded his official Provincial Visitation in the late afternoon with an early dinner hosted by members of St. Bridget's Cooperators in a Chinese Restaurant in Monterey Park. Members of the Salesian Soto community were also invited to join them to feast on a lavish Chinese Banquet. After a packed two-day schedule, Fr. Tim finally had the opportunity to kick back, relax and enjoy all the company of his confreres as well as the members of St. Bridget's Cooperators.

Feast of St. John Bosco at Don Bosco Tech

By Br. Bob Henning SDB

Bishop Salazar and the St. Joseph's Novitiate Community joined everyone at Bosco Tech to celebrate our founder's feast on Tuesday morning, January 31.

During the liturgical celebration Bishop Salazar gave a short homily that included thoughts about how we should imitate the ease with which children forgive, and their comfort with being dependant on their parents. He also pointed out that Christ will shepherd us throughout our earthly lives, and then give us new lives to share with Him in eternity. He

continued by reminding us that we are a priestly and prophetic people who must readily share their gifts and talents. And finally, he said that we should never underestimate the influence that we have in being able to draw others to Christ as Don Bosco did with his boys.

After the Mass the bishop shared lunch with some of the staff and students. He showed great enjoyment in his rather lengthy conversation with a group of students that shared lunch at his table.

In the later part of the afternoon and into the evening, the Bosco Tech priests and brothers and the Daughters of Charity from Maryvale, joined the St. Joseph's Novitiate Community for an evening of prayer, food and games. This time shared together made a grand finale for the feast day.



Feast of Don Bosco

By Br. Joe Lockwood, SDB

The celebration of the Feast of our Founder, Don Bosco, began in the morning with the celebration of the Eucharist by Fr. Joe Nguyen, Director. Under the leadership of the CYM, Fr. Tho Bui, the relic of Don Bosco was exposed for veneration during the day with students visiting the Chapel to pray and to view the relic. A student body mass had been celebrated on the previous Thursday with Bishop Richard Salazar presiding.

In the evening the DeSales Hall and SJB communities gathered for a period, of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of the adoration period evening prayers were said followed by the good night given by Fr. Ted Montemayor, Vice Director.

The communities were blessed with the presence of Frs. Luis Gryzko, (PLE) and Lujzn Kamienski, (PLE). At the festive dinner, the community celebrated Brother Steve Standard's birthday.



Corpus Christi's Five Day Celebration

By Fr. Jose Lucero , SDB



Breakfast with Salesians



Sunday Potluck Party



Road Trip Retreat Planning

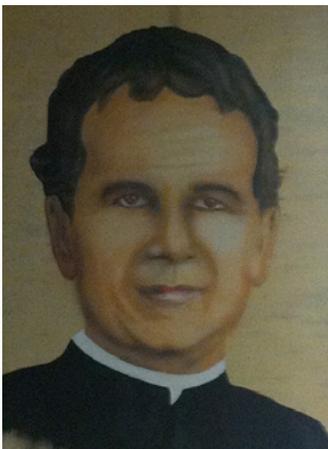
"The first thing I thought when I came into Corpus Christi parish was how friendly and warm a welcome I received. I didn't know what to expect, for some reason a room full of hellos never came to mind. I was submerged in a sea of smiling faces. I couldn't help smiling myself when I saw it." - Nick Leija



Nick explains Vides.

On Nick's first day at Corpus Christi he was informed that he was going to direct a lock-in retreat come Friday. He smiled at the idea and took to it. Nick Leija is a young volunteer from San Antonio, Texas who arrived at Corpus Christi on Wednesday, January 25, 2012. From the beginning he jumped right into the planning of events in one of the busiest times of the year, the festivities surrounding the feast of Don Bosco. On Friday we began our festivities in Café Don Bosco where over 75 people gathered to watch the life of Don Bosco with snacks, drinks and a very comfortable space to watch the amazing movie on Don Bosco. After the movie, youth ministry put on their first lock-in retreat for over 50 youth beginning at 11:00 p.m. We planned out and discussed everything the day before, and the very first lock-in retreat was a great success. Forty-five teens, confirmation and youth ministry students attended the retreat with the help of seven college students, all members of CC youth ministry. The night went on with a series of games, exercises, activities, prayer and fun. At the end it was evident that the participants got something deep out of it. The next event, the province Rock Out Youth Poverty, was held at Corpus Christi and Nick was one of the MCs. He helped spark interest in the people that attended. The parish continued its festivities with a dinner dance where many people had a great time and seemed to enjoy themselves. Nick got to meet and interact with the people of the parish, some were friends that he'd already made, some were friends yet to make. He says he wasn't too keen on dancing, but he sure did do it. We could tell that everyone at that dance was enjoying themselves. They all had a single thought on their minds: Let's party! And party we did. On Sunday several young people acted out a skit for the masses followed by a Potluck Party in the hall. A raffle was held and prizes were given out. It was a great time. Monday was Salesian Family day, during which we had a meeting in the hall to talk about the different aspects of the Salesian family. Nick was among the 5 presenters who got to explain to people the process of VIDES, the Salesian volunteer program that arranged for him to arrive here. The audience was attentive and interested; he received many compliments on his brief speech. Tuesday a large breakfast was provided for all the parishioners and we all had breakfast with the Salesians. Tuesday evening we had dinner in the rectory. Youth and their families were invited and we were able to further bond with one another and the priests. On Wednesday Nick attended his first youth night. He didn't know what to expect, so he decided to follow along so he could understand how it goes. We ended up blessing the entire church with the youth and other members of the parish. The experience was both fun and healing for everyone.

Nick seems to be off to a great start, as do we all, considering that we spent 5 continuous days in celebration of our founder and father, the great saint and friend to youth, St. John Bosco. I believe this not only marks the beginning of a great time for Nick, starting his work and ministry here as a volunteer, but also for us all as we have been renewed once again by the spirit and dynamism of our saint. Viva Don Bosco!!!



Painting by Wilfredo, Parishioner

Festive Dinner w Salesians for Feast Day



Ms Lucero and Parish Ladies enjoying a great time.



NorCal Rock Out Youth Poverty

By Fr. Jose Lucero, SDB

Rock Out Youth Poverty was celebrated for the first time in the Bay area on January 28, 2012, at Corpus Christi Church in the Excelsior district.

Bro. Al Vu, Gina Robles and others from the Province Youth Ministry Office were there to organize, set up and lead the prayer. Fr. John Roche offered the opening keynote.

The audience consisted of Corpus Christi youth ministry and religious education children and youth. We highlighted food from Mexico, El Salvador, Philippines, India, and Peru.

Three musical groups blessed us with their presence: Siloe (coro de jovenes from Corpus Christi), Shipwreck Choir (youth gospel choir) and Mr. Joey Zarate.

The kids enjoyed coloring and making prayer beads. All present seemed to have a good time.



SDB Birthdays

Jerry Bonjean	16
Paul Maniscalco	19
Dave Purdy	20
Pat Barbariol	22
Tom Juarez	22
Mario Rosso	22

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
 Weekly publications will be distributed on Thursdays. Please submit news for publication by Friday of each week.
 Send contributions to:
intouch@salesiansc.org

Salesian Week 2012 “DREAM BIG!”

By Gaby Gordillo

St. Mary’s Salesian week was to “Dream big!” by building the Salesian spirit among the young people in the parish. Our youth ministry team worked hard to organize and facilitate games for our children and youth, and I could say with conviction that Don Bosco called his young back to the oratory because we had a blast! Here are some captions of how we Salesians celebrate:



“Youth Cinema”



“Salesian Talent Show”



“Don Bosco’s youth basketball tournament”



“Campo Bosco”



“St. Mary’s Salesian Youth Movement”



“Feast of Don Bosco’s Liturgy”

**“It is enough for you to be young, for us to love you.”
- Don Bosco**

Installation Ceremony at St. Luke's

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, Bishop Stephen Blaire officially installed Fr. Gael Sullivan as pastor of St. Luke's Church in Stockton.



Bike Ride Tour

By Carlos Sousa

On February 4th, 2012, twenty young people and volunteers from the Salesian Boys & Girls Club went on a bike ride to the mountains of Whittier. The day was filled with excitement, food, and a few crashes. The Novices and Br. Tom Mass organized the event, shuttling the young people up over 1000 vertical feet. Then it was off to lunch near the water tower, followed by a swift descent down the mountain. We then proceeded to pack up and head back to the Club.

[Bike Ride Tour](#)





St. John Bosco High School

Announcement of Job Opportunity: Principal

St. John Bosco High School (Bellflower, CA) is seeking highly qualified candidates to be considered for the position of Principal, commencing on July 1, 2012.

All candidates must demonstrate the following minimum qualifications:

- A Masters Degree from an accredited college or university.
- A California Clear Administrative Credential or state-issued equivalent. A Catholic School Leadership certification may also be considered.
- A minimum of four years of administrative experience in a secondary school setting.
- A record of quantifiable success in school leadership capacities, including classroom instruction.
- A Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church.

Compensation is commensurate with experience.

Additional position details, qualifications and desirable capabilities can be found at: www.bosco.org/apps/jobs

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail to Cindy Beyl at:

boscohs@aol.com

Founded in 1940, St. John Bosco High School is an all-male Catholic Salesian college preparatory school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with a student body of 730 students, grades 9-12. Owned and conducted by the Salesians of Don Bosco, St. John Bosco is one of the premiere private Catholic high schools in Southern California. As a Salesian institution, the school employs the "Preventative System" which is rooted in three core principles: Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness. As such, St. John Bosco creates a unique atmosphere for young men ensuring strong moral development, character and faith, while empowering them for the rigors of college and life. More information can be found at www.bosco.org

St. John Bosco High School is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Salesian Youth Ministry presents
Youth Animators Workshop Series

The Youth Animators Workshop Series is a formation program for high school seniors and young adults who animate youth ministry programs in parish, youth center, and school settings. It equips animators with the knowledge, skills, practical tools and techniques needed for creative and comprehensive ministry with youth based on the Salesian youth pastoral model. The Youth Animators Workshop Series includes four courses offered in a weekend format over a two-year period. The aim of the program is to promote personal, spiritual, and ministerial growth.

“Evangelization and Catechesis”

Foundations in Evangelization and Catechesis

February 18-19, 2012

(St. John Bosco Library, Bellflower)

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

March 3-4, 2012

(Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley)

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Cost: \$30.00 per person*
or \$100.00* for groups of 5

** Includes materials and program fees for both Saturday and Sunday. Lunch is included.*



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

February 18-19, 2012 at St. John Bosco HS March 3-4, 2012 at Don Bosco Hall

Salesian Site: _____

Name of Participant: _____ Age: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please return or FAX form to Salesian Youth Ministry Office
PO Box 4398, Downey CA 90241 FAX #: (626) 280-0545
Make checks payable to SALESIAN YOUTH MINISTRY