



Nouvelles Salésiennes Salesian News

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Note: Although the GC26 concluded almost a month ago, I thought it well to enclose here Fr. Richard's last two messages; four have already been published here. They are still significant.

Friday of Easter Week, March 28, 2008

Hello once more to each of you,

Rain, rain, go away, come again another day!
What we lack in snow, we've had in rain; also here
spring seems hesitant in arriving. But **Easter** has
arrived and the Lord renews & revitalizes our
Hope!

The high point of this week was Tuesday,
March 25, the day on which we elected our Rector
Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez. What an outpouring of
affection and joy for "**our Don Bosco**"! And Fr.
Pascual received all this with his characteristic
simplicity and humility. Truly the Lord has blessed
us!

For the rest of the elections, some went very
smoothly, others were more difficult. It's sometimes
not obvious how to balance the needs of the Con-
gregation, personal gifts & charisms of individual
confreres, and a fair representation of all eight
world regions on the general council.

My message for this week comes from the
**beautiful Good Night the Rector Major gave us on
Tuesday, March 25**. Normally, in the Church's
calendar, this date is the feast of the Annunciation,
when Mary was asked to become the Mother of the
Lord. Fr. Pascual considered that his election was
also an annunciation – a call to "be Don Bosco" for
the Salesian Family and the young. He also re-
minded us that it was on March 25, 1855, that Don
Bosco invited young Michael Rua to make his first
private vows as a Salesian. On this occasion Don
Bosco also reminded Michael Rua about the
meaning of "going halves" with him. Michael Rua
would share everything with Don Bosco, be his
alter ego, and eventually become his first successor.

Fr. Chavez then went on to remind us that Don
Bosco was the only founder of a religious congre-
gation who had called young people to become "co-
founders" with him. Don Bosco saw the young as
protagonists, as primary actors in his mission. Today
we would say he inspired and developed leadership
qualities and gave major responsibilities to the
young. This, therefore, should always be our own
approach in **all of our youth ministry & educational
activities**. And in so many ways this is what we are
already trying to do in Canada: through our
leadership retreats, our formation of camp animators,
our calling upon our closest young collaborators to
assume ever more responsibilities in our mission. So
we **are** on the right track.

As we do all this, let us do it in the spirit of the
Easter message. Let us **act out of faith** by believing
in the Risen Jesus. Let us **accept a new life** and live
as people who have risen to a new life in Jesus. Let
us bear witness by **communicating the hope** we
carry in our hearts by our life & our words.

Have a great week,
Fr. Richard in Rome!

April 4, 2008

Greetings once again from the Eternal City!

This might be my last message, as the chapter
ends next week. Many of you have thanked me for
these little messages. I have enjoyed doing them
myself as they have helped me to deepen my own
experience here.

The highlight of this week was obviously the
audience with the Holy Father, **Pope Benedict XVI**.
Try to imagine the scene! When we arrived at St.
Peter's Basilica, we were escorted by security
personnel to the statue of Don Bosco near the main
altar. There we renewed our promise of fidelity to
our founder. Then we were accompanied to the main
altar itself, below which are found the relics of St.

Peter. There we recited the Credo to recommit ourselves to our faith. Then we all had the chance to descend the steps below the altar to venerate the relics themselves. It was most inspiring to do all this as a group of over 300 Salesians from around the world!

Entering the Apostolic Palace is always impressive in its own right: walking by the Swiss Guards and going up the 120 or so steps to the audience hall. Warm, heartfelt applause accompanied the entrance of the Holy Father. He shared with us a beautiful message from which I quote the two thoughts that most struck me.

The first thought is for the **Salesians**:

“Your first task must consist in strengthening the vocation of every Salesian in living his call to the consecrated life in its fullness. The entire Congregation must constantly strive to be “a living memorial of Jesus’ way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brethren. May Christ be the focus of your lives!”

The second thought is for all **families, educators, collaborators and Cooperators**:

“In the education of youth it is extremely important that the family be an active subject. Oftentimes, faced with the challenges of education, the family finds itself in difficulty; many times it is either unable to make its specific contribution, or it is absent. Your youth ministry must therefore be decisively open to family ministry. To care for families is not to subtract from efforts on behalf of the young; rather it makes those efforts more lasting and effective.”

Inspiring & challenging words for all of us. May we really believe in each of our vocations and respond as energetically as would Don Bosco.

Fr. Richard signing off in Rome!

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MONTREAL. Since the return of Fr. Richard from the general chapter in Rome in mid-April, our parish has lived many interesting events. A few weeks before, around the feast of St. Joseph, our parish held its yearly pilgrimage to St. Joseph’s Oratory. Two busloads of parishioners went to honour the saint for his feast.

The Easter triduum was preached this year by the pastor of Our Lady of the Difesa, and the participation of the people was encouraging. Many of them availed themselves of the occasion to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. And for the liturgical ceremonies of the Holy Week triduum itself, the church was filled. The faithful followed the celebrations with exemplary devotion while our choirs helped pray with well chosen singing. The dramatised *Via Crucis* on the evening of Good Friday created a climate of prayerful meditation.

On Easter Monday, in spite of the cold, our community joined with the Sherbrooke confreres at a “cabane à sucre” at St-Grégoire to share a typical “sugar log meal” – products of the maple tree – as well as their friendship.

The next day, the pastoral team of the parish met at the YLC Youth Centre to start planning the “Salesian dimension” of the parish work. Also with the first days of April came to an end the catechism course for over 900 youngsters, many of whom are preparing their First Communion and Confirmation. Those preparations for about 600 of them started in mid-April. Given the high numbers, the celebrations will take place over 4 Saturdays, with 3 celebrations on each Saturday.

On April 24, the community met with Father Provincial at the YLC. He shared with them the essential points of the recent chapter and also informed them about the modalities of the coming canonical visitation. This year, this visitation will take place separately for the confreres of Maria Ausiliatrice and those of St. Joseph.

On the weekend of April 25, 6 animators of the youth groups of the parish went to South Orange, N.J., for a *Salesian Spirituality Weekend* with other animators of Salesian works in the USA: 32 participants in all. Those participating from our parish were Dina Amicone, Carolina Lagama, Joseph DiStaulo, Nadia Martone, Theo Vecera and Lorrie Marchetta. The session included topics like *the Preventive System, the Oratory Criteria, Team Ministry, Evangelisation and Catechesis Skills, Pastoral and Self-Planning*. The participants gave a positive evaluation of the presentations that were offered. One participant put it this way: “*This weekend really opened up my eyes to the richness of the Salesian style and method of youth ministry*” (Cf. *E-Service*, May 1, 2008).

SHERBROOKE. Le grand événement de ce mois passé, même si cela se tenait à des milliers de km d'ici, fut la **clôture du 26^e Chapitre Général** à Rome. Les moyens de communications d'aujourd'hui, surtout l'Internet, nous permettent de suivre ces événements, presque comme si nous y étions: textes, photos, vidéos, etc. Cela avait lieu à la Maison généralice des salésiens le samedi 12 avril. Notre provincial était de retour le lendemain. Quant à Mike, il profita de quelques jours pour visiter quelques compagnons d'études. Le destin l'attendait à Prague : un pickpocket lui soutira discrètement son portefeuille : argent, cartes et tout!

Chaque confrère a sans doute déjà lu et réfléchi sur le discours de conclusion du Recteur Majeur : **« Le CG26 : une carte de navigation vers le Jubilé de 2015 sous le pavillon du *Da Mihi Animas, Caetera Tolle* . »**

Le dernier jour d'avril, les directeurs des communautés du Canada se réunissaient à Montréal au monastère des Recluses missionnaires pour une journée d'études. Étaient présents les PP. Richard Authier, provincial, Roméo Trottier, vicaire provincial, Alain Léonard (Sherbrooke), Dominique Britschu (Montréal), George Harkins (Toronto-Hamilton), Romano Venturelli (Edmonton), Mario Villaraza (Surrey). Plusieurs aspects de la vie de la province furent abordés, dont le principal fut le **Plan de Vie Communautaire**. Le Provincial présenta aussi une ébauche du programme de la retraite spirituelle du mois d'août à Châteauguay.

Notre communauté de Sherbrooke avait quelques jours auparavant travaillé son plan de vie communautaire lors de sa récollection mensuelle. – Comme chaque année, en la fête de Saint Joseph Travailleur le 1^{er} mai, les employés de la communauté furent invités à une eucharistie présidée par le P. Alain, suivie d'un repas fraternel au restaurant. C'est une façon d'exprimer notre reconnaissance envers ces personnes qui collaborent avec nous dans notre mission auprès des jeunes.

Quant à la **vie au Séminaire**, le principal événement du mois fut le **lancement de la campagne de financement** de plus d'un M\$ de la Fondation du SS lors d'un souper aux crabes le 26. Ce lancement s'est effectué sous la présidence d'honneur de Pierre Dion, président et chef de la

direction du Groupe TVA. M. Dion est un ancien du Salésien ('81). À date, 450 000\$ ont été amassés. Le thème de la campagne, s'inspirant d'une parole de Don Bosco, est : *Vous êtes les couleurs*.

Les **projets envisagés** comprennent un terrain de tennis évolutif, déjà pour la prochaine rentrée scolaire, un centre culturel, des aménagements à la bibliothèque et la bonification de l'aide financière aux élèves.

Pour ce qui est du **terrain de tennis**, concept unique au Québec, je cite *La Tribune* du 28 avril. *«Les terrains de tennis que l'institution désire aménager s'adaptent à l'évolution des joueurs : débutants, intermédiaires et standards. 'Nous sommes en discussion avec la Ville de Sherbrooke pour un partenariat à ce sujet,' indique M. Raymond Lepage, directeur du Séminaire Salésien, en soulignant que les installations pourraient aussi servir à la communauté sherbrookoise. Le projet est évalué à environ 200 000\$..Le projet du centre culturel de 375 places, de son côté, est évalué à plus de 1 M \$.»*

Cette campagne de financement, dont la directrice est Mme Julie Tremblay, se déroulera jusqu'à l'automne 2008. Le souper aux crabes qui réunissait quelque 325 convives, pour la plupart des anciens et leurs familles, se tenait au gymnase du Séminaire et a recueilli environ 15 000\$. La soirée fut animée avec brio par François Jeanson, un ancien du Salésien ('79), animateur à *Radio CHLT*.

Pour faire suite à ce rassemblement, le 29 avril, l'invitation était lancée cette fois-ci aux anciens du Salésien de la région de Montréal. M. Pierre Dion, avait réservé l'un des **studios de TVA, rue Alexandre-de-Sève**, pour recevoir environ 150 anciens et professeurs du Salésien. En plus de M. Dion qui accueillit chaleureusement les invités, se sont adressées au groupe les personnes suivantes : Raymond Lepage, dg du SS, Richard Pierre-Gilles ('81), professeur au Salésien, Marie-Christine Proulx ('95), animatrice culturelle à *Rythme FM*, Pierre Bruneau et Sophie Thibault, animateurs des bulletins de nouvelles à TVA, à 17h et 22h respectivement.

Le **plus ancien des «anciens»** remontait à 1967. Quelle joie de retrouver ces visages dont la présence au Salésien s'échelonnait sur près de 50 ans d'histoire! Un témoignage que j'ai recueilli en «piquant une petite jasette» avec l'un de ces anciens des années '70 : *«Ce furent de belles années celles*

passées au Salésien. Je suis reconnaissant pour ce que j'ai vécu pendant ces années qui ne sont pas toujours faciles. Reconnaisant pas tellement pour l'instruction- j'aurais pu obtenir l'équivalent ailleurs- mais pour les valeurs que j'ai vécues et apprises. Ce sont ces valeurs-là que j'ai essayées et que je transmets encore à mes enfants.»

Notre hôte nous réservait une surprise pendant la soirée. On nous fit passer au studio où on enregistre l'émission de TV *Le Banquier*. Le réalisateur et son assistante nous expliquèrent toute la façon dont l'émission est produite.

Les PP. Alain ('81) et Roméo (arrivé au Salésien en '66) furent enchantés de cette soirée qui fit revivre de beaux souvenirs. Après quelques heures en si bonne compagnie, ils poursuivirent leur route vers Rivière-des-Prairies, puisque c'est là que se rencontraient les directeurs de communautés le lendemain.

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SURREY, B.C. April 1 saw the return of OLGC students from their spring break, and also ushered in April Fools' Day. Another month got underway to a terrific start, and it was great to see the playground alive with a youthful presence. A few days later, Fr. Dave and Bro. Jerry attended the dance competition that was being held at the Surrey Arts Center, where our *Praise Team* Dancers participated. They designed an energetic routine from a recent musical.

Here are a few events that took place at the beginning of the month. The Polish community sponsored what they entitle "*SNIECONE*" – something equivalent to our "Pot Luck." A good crowd attended this function in the Don Bosco Gym. Frs. Mario, Dave and Jan along with Bro. Jerry were present to taste the goodies provided and shared.

At Mass on April 6, we welcomed two older youngsters as they received the sacrament of Baptism and sixteen others as they made their First Holy Communion. Fr. Dave was the Salesian presence and animator at "Camp Brave." Fifty-five young people gathered for a *Youth for Christ* leadership camp. Keynote speakers addressed *God's Crazy Plan for You* and *Who Is Jesus Christ for me?, Forgiveness and Healing, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Commitment to Christ*. A lot of music,

fellowship, and interaction helped to create an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully.

Here at home base, it was also *Vocation Sunday*, and we were fortunate to have with us Corporal David McLeod, a senior military chaplain (Catholic *Padre*) from the Canadian Forces, who was accompanying one recent war casualty (who was from Surrey, B.C.) home for the funeral. He spoke at four of our Sunday Masses, joined us for lunch on our Monday outing together and gave a "new look" to priesthood in a different setting other than a parish. Meanwhile, our Polish parishioners held a fundraiser *PACZKI* (known as "Poppy Seed or Jam Buster" stuffed pastry) baked sale in Our Mary Help of Christians Hall after their 1:00 p.m. Mass.

On the 19th our former fundraiser coordinator, Sharon La Fleche, had a surprise birthday party held in her honour at our Don Bosco Gym with over three hundred parishioners and friends in attendance at a pot-luck, old-fashioned "Beer Barrel Oompa Oktoberfest" – band and all – in support of our pilgrims for World Youth Day. A 50-50 draw was held, and a good time was had by all. Fr. Mario led the opening prayer as the fun got underway.

Earth Day 2008 had Fr. Dave bless the tree that was planted by our school children in the far right end of the soccer field. The sun beamed down, and Fr. John, Bro. Jerry, Mr. Wright and the teachers along with all the students were present for this special occasion that was announcing OLGC's 60th anniversary year.

Thursday evening of the 24th the *Praise Team* and *Youth for Christ* performed a Christian witness event using dance, song and prayer to invite our confirmandi along with their parents and/or sponsors to look seriously at their commitment to service with Christ. This two-hour event held in the Don Bosco Gym had the CCD students and Grade 7's from OLGC present. Fr. Dave was the master of ceremonies for this event, while Youth Coordinator Beth Reyes and CCD coordinators from our regular Thursday evening classes, plus the Polish and Chaldean CCD Schools, all helped behind the scenes with attendance and refreshments. This was a unique event where youth were reaching out to youth on their own terms.

The novena in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel got underway on April 17 through the 25th. On Saturday the 26th we celebrated the parish feast

même juifs et musulmans. Sa renommée de sainteté est grande parmi le peuple.

BELGIQUE. La **maman de Mgr Luc Van Looy**, Margarita, est décédée le 27 avril. Mgr Van Looy, qui fut vicaire du Recteur Majeur des salésiens, est évêque de Gand.

ST-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU, Québec. **Marcel Plante**, an ex-SDB who for some years was a coadjutor brother working in Paterson, N.J., died of cancer on April 17. He was of the novitiate 1950-1951 in Newton, N.J.

BRÉSIL. Le 19 avril a eu lieu dans l'État de Espiritu Santo au Brésil l'ordination épiscopale de **Mgr Tarcisio Scaramussa**. Jusqu'à sa nomination comme évêque auxiliaire de Sao Paulo, Mgr Scaramussa était membre du conseil général des salésiens, à la tête du dicastère de la communication sociale.

TOULON, France. Le **P. Jacques Donne** a envoyé de ses nouvelles. Il est hospitalisé depuis une couple de semaines, les médecins ayant diagnostiqué la tuberculose. Une prière SVP pour lui afin que sa convalescence soit rapide et complète.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY ! JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE DE NAISSANCE!

Luc Lantagne: May 3
Paul Cossette: May 7
Marcel Gauthier: May 20
Stanley Sileika: May 28
George Harkins: June 1

ANNIVERSAIRE D'ORDINATION

Dominique Britschu: le 1 mai
Paul Cossette : le 9 mai
Bob Gagné : le 17 mai

Dave Sajdak : May 17

FÊTES SALÉSIENNES SALESIAN FEASTS

ST DOMINIQUE SAVIO : 6 mai
STE M.-DOMINIQUE MAZZARELLO : 13 mai
MARIE AUXILIATRICE : 24 mai
BX JOSEPH KOWALSKI, martyr: 29 mai
