

# *Nouvelles Salésiennes*

## *Salesian News*

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**PROULXVILLE.** Me voici rendu au terme de mon congé de trois mois, et je n'ai pu rencontrer que 2 confrères : Roméo et Marcel. La raison qui m'a cloué à la maison est bien connue de vous tous. J'ai dû subir quelques interventions pour extraire 3 calculs rénaux que j'avais dans mon rein gauche. La consigne de mon urologue était de boire beaucoup d'eau. Et quand on boit beaucoup, on doit également éliminer, ce qui empêche les sorties.

Pendant mon séjour ici à St. -Séverin j'ai rendu des services à la paroisse. Je célébrais la messe tous les jours de semaine et le dimanche, ce qui fut fort apprécié des 2 prêtres de St. -Tite qui ont pu prendre leurs vacances plus à l'aise. Ils desservent 3 paroisses.

Vendredi le 31 août je prends l'avion pour le Rwanda, via Paris, Bruxelles. Je serai à Kigali le samedi à 18h40 heure locale (midi trente au Québec). On a augmenté mes tâches, puisque au lieu d'être 9 confrères à Gatenga, nous ne serons plus que 5. La jeune vice-province vient de perdre un jeune confrère en Philosophie. Il était parti dans sa famille pour son congé, et il fut tué par la foudre. C'était un jeune qui avait fait ses études à Gatenga et à Kimihurura, notre institut de formation apostolique et un de nos meilleurs éléments.

Je continuerai à travailler 3 matinées par semaine à la Nonciature Apostolique pour la correspondance en français, en anglais et en italien. Mon travail principal à Gatenga même, c'est la tenue des livres de comptabilité. Ce n'est pas une petite affaire dans une école de 1200 élèves.

Vous avez déjà entamé votre travail pour la nouvelle année scolaire. Je vous souhaite à tous une bonne santé pour pouvoir accomplir avec satisfaction les responsabilités qui vous ont été confiées. Union de prières.

*Jean-Paul Lebel*  
*le 28 août 2007*

**TORONTO-HAMILTON.** News about confreres. The Salesian community spent some Thanksgiving time with Fr. Bob Gagné enjoying a turkey meal and his presence. Bob looks good. - Fr. Mike Pace has taken up his first month of new ministry as pastor of St. Benedict's with much enthusiasm and passion. - Fr. Occhio recently flew to Orange, N.J., where he gave a week of talks to the 4 novices on *Fides et Ratio*. - Fr. Drago Gacnik celebrated his 51<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup>. - Fr. Joe Ho has now moved to St. Benedict's rectory as assistant pastor; he has become Fr. Mike's right-hand man.

Some 900 students of Msgr. Percy Johnson Sec. School have just taken up their classes in their new complex neighbouring St. Benedict's. Bro. Bernie is always an active presence among them. - Fr. George, accompanied by Bro. Bernie, recently blessed the new hospitality room at Don Bosco Secondary in the presence of many school officials and friends. - Preparations have begun for our annual Salesian Leadership Retreat to be held in mid-November at Jackson Point on Lake Simcoe. Over 60 young people will participate.

On October 28, our community hosted the entire Pace family (over 40 persons) on the occasion of Salvina's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, *la nonna*. - The Salesian Sisters of the Porterfield community held an evening "tea goodies" to honour Sr. Roberta Johnson, who will soon be leaving Toronto for Montreal as superior of the Marseille convent. She will be dearly missed here.

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**SURREY.** "Three great movements" have recently taken place or are on-going at our Lady of Good Counsel. Our parish is a center for **Youth for Christ**: a movement of evangelization for young people by young people. In their own words, "Youth for Christ, Canada exists to impact every young person in Canada with the person, work and

teachings of Jesus Christ and discipling them into the Church ... Through broad exposure to the message and discipling those who respond, leaders will surface who will help to shape Canada's future.

Our **Youth for Christ** at O.L.G.C. have been busy planning a three-day camp to initiate new members of YFC. The camp took place on Oct. 12-14. The leaders of YFC met to prepare their presentations on discipleship, purity, the practice of our faith, under the adult mentorship of parishioners Paul and Alice Atienza. What is amazing and encouraging is that YFC is led by young people from high school teens to early twenties and has a mission to reach out to other young people ... all for Christ!

Another movement getting off the ground here at O.L.G.C. is the **Knights of the Altar** Leadership Program. There are over 125 altar servers at O.L.G.C. And their commitment as altar servers is not merely to show up for Mass, but also to know their faith and practice it fully. Former Salesian and current parishioner Edzel Escala is providing the zeal behind this Philippine-based leadership program that forms older altar servers into mentors of the younger ones, and also provides the leaders with tools for Christian living.

The third movement is our **Praise Team** – our high-energy-musical-performance, young-people group who offer all they do for the praise and worship of God. The last Saturday of Sept., O.L.G.C. hosted a city wide break dance competition. Our youth center was filled with over 200 dancers and spectators, from teens to early 20's. The event was sponsored by Praise Team, whose great coordinator is Beth Reyes. Once again, our Praise Team provided leadership to their peers that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

In mid October, Chuck Luttrell, the religious education director from the archdiocese, conducted a workshop for our lectors, commentators and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in the church. About forty members were in attendance. He certainly helped to launch our lecture series. The Harvest Moon Dinner Dance had over three hundred in attendance on Sat., Oct. 20, in the Don Bosco Gym. It was an enjoyable fundraising event where OLG Sch. parents put a lot of time and

effort, not only in decorations and the layout of the facilities, but in getting sponsors, prizes and auction donations that made this family occasion such a success.

The community recently enjoyed an outing to Simon Fraser University Park and lookout. We had a spectacular view of the valley and its surroundings, plus a tasty meal together. Some time before for Thanksgiving, we were all invited for a delicious, home cooked meal at one of our Polish families. The 26<sup>th</sup> was Fr. Jan's birthday, plus the birthday of our head custodian, Rudy, and the day previous that of Somboun, our talented "jack-of-all-trades." An afternoon lunch with all the trimmings and two cakes raised our voices in song and congratulations as the rest of the staff joined us for tea, coffee and cake.

Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, had Bro. Jerry represent his confreres, and with some catechists attended the Archdiocese 2007 Congress entitled *Let Us Pary*. Brother brought Salesian vocation material and helped man the vocation booth. Msgr. Gregory was the keynote speaker. The presiding celebrant for the opening Eucharistic liturgy was Archbishop Raymond Roussin, SM, while the coadjutor bishop, Michael Miller, did the concluding blessing. About six of our catechists received award certificates and pins for their numerous years of service.

Throughout this month were the many confessions of the school children, along with Fr. Dave attending and giving a retreat talk for students of Holy Cross High School. The month concluded with the usual Halloween dress-up day at OLG Secondary with Mr. Wright, the principal, decked out as Spider Man. Fr. Basso visited and celebrated afternoon Masses at the various nursing homes. Bro. Jerry inaugurated the training of new lectors and commentators for the Saturday evening Youth Mass, while Fr. Mario attended various meetings. He was also the celebrant for the funeral Mass of the youngest murder victim in the recent Surrey high rise slayings. This 19-year-old was the grandson of one of our Eucharistic ministers. Since Ryan was very active in sports and well liked, the church was packed with young people.

Fr. Jan is chaplain at OLG and the Saturday Polish School. He has been busy promoting the family certificates with attention to this year's theme of the Eucharist. He also oversees the half







