



# *Nouvelles Salésiennes* *Salesian News*

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Bulletin mensuel électronique  
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**SURREY, B.C.** The opening of September was a beehive of activity with guests, school opening and First Friday Mass with the children and parishioners. We held our own Salesian Monday meetings and “pow-wows.” Fr. Dave and Bro. Jerry celebrated their profession day on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, respectively. The confreres were introduced to the school children and staff on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, their first day back after summer holidays.

Fr. Fernando Suarez (Companion of the Holy Cross) arrived and did a healing Mass the following evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> to a packed congregation. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Fr. Lukose, a Salesian priest from India, arrived and shared a pot luck Salesian Family dinner with us and our Salesian Cooperators. He spoke and presented a slide presentation on the Snehalaya Project and work he founded for the street children. Later he was the main celebrant at the First Friday evening Mass. Afterwards refreshments were served and he met many interested parishioners from OLG East Indian Community. Then on Sunday, Archbishop Dominic Jala, SDB, from the Shillong diocese graced us by saying the 11:15 a.m. Mass. For the past six years he has represented the Indian Conference of Bishops as board member of the International Commission on English in the liturgy (ICEL), which is busy working on the texts of the new English missal. They meet twice a year to go through the translations which eventually get to the Bishops’ conferences for their votes, and which in turn are forwarded to the Vatican for the *recognitio*. He stayed with us for a short span as his next meeting got underway in Vancouver that evening until midday of the 12<sup>th</sup>. He left Fr. Mario a rough draft of the upcoming liturgical changes, which was an

interesting discussion venue at our daily community meetings for the remainder of that week.

With excellent warm weather the Golden Agers’ 50+ Club members enjoyed an all-day outing on Sept. 10 to Chilliwack’s Minter Country Garden exhibition in nearby Rosedale, B.C. Their moderator, Bro. Jerry, and our visiting priest, Fr. Teotimo Melliza, SSP, from the Philippines accompanied the van participants. The hour’s drive from Vancouver offered them a quiet escape into the Mighty Fraser Country with the rugged peaks of the Cascade Mountains that overlooked the spectacular world-class floral displays, the explosion of color, an evergreen maze and a collection of whimsical flower “sculptures” shaped like Southern belles and radiant peacocks, all located at the base of 2,1344-m (7,000-ft.) Mount Cheam that houses this peaceful garden sanctuary. What an impressive sight!

Our Tuesday night CCD classes began in earnest on the 9<sup>th</sup>, while the RCIA Wednesday evening sessions began at 7:00 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The post-confirmation CCD classes and their theme on “Christian Vocation,” which Fr. Dave is conducting, is overflowing in numbers--so much so, that there is not a large enough classroom to accommodate them. Consequently, Fr. Dave is using the Don Bosco Gym grandstands for their seating arrangements.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Bro. Jerry and the parents of *Knights of the Altar*, Juan Dantes and Robert Jerome Robles, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Altar Servers Award and Mass. The Serra Clubs of Vancouver were the sponsors of this event, and the Most Rev.

Raymond Roussin, S.M., bishop of the archdiocese of Vancouver, gave the homily and was main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. A reception was held afterward in the hall, as our altar servers enjoyed the honor and this proud occasion in their lives. Truly the parish is appreciative of their dedicated participation and service to our community.

The *Exaltation of the Holy Cross* had the catechists' commissioning ceremony during the 11:15 a.m. Mass. The following day our Salesian community enjoyed an outing to Grouse Mountain, followed by lunch in the Peak Chalet (elevation 1,128m, or 3,700 ft) on a beautiful, sunny and clear afternoon overlooking the city and valley. We took in the Red Skyride up and down; the Theatre in the Sky; the Eco Walk and Grizzly Bear Habitat. An exciting adventure in the grandeur of the mountain!

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Fr. John underwent gallbladder surgery. He was in by 7:00 a.m. and returned home that same evening, much to our surprise. The week previous he had undergone a root canal surgery only to discover later that the tooth next to it had become infected. He is recovering and still suffering from those anxiety attacks, hyperventilation and weakness, but slowly the antibiotics are doing their job. Kindly keep his complete recovery in your generous prayers. He would appreciate that, I am sure.

Fr. Richard Authier arrived from the joint provincial council talks in California around noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> and stayed with us for a few days, treating us to breakfast at Ricky's. He shared with us some of the happenings there, and concelebrated Mass on the 19<sup>th</sup> before heading to Edmonton the next day.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> was Fr. Dave's birthday, while Fr. Samed's was June 4 past, and Sr. Anne's was on Sept. 7. In honor of them all, we anticipated this special occasion with a staff luncheon party on Sept. 2. The principal and vice-principal from OLG School and one of our Salesian Cooperators and all the parish staff attended.

Bro. Jerry prepared the spread, luncheon, cake, candles, and all to the joy of the participants. A good time was had by all, including the "birthday boys."

With beautiful Indian summer upon us, and the leaves starting to wear their fall colors, many visits to the sick, school retreats, and introductory days away from OLG and Holy Cross have been done by Fr. Dave, with Fr. Jan pitch-hitting for Fr. John, and also conducting the Polish Saturday Language School and saying Mass at the various nursing homes. Our guest priests, Fr. Tim, SSP, and our Missionary of Africa (White Father) Innocent Mogauya from the Congo, who is visiting his family on route to his studies in Rome, have both been helping with our daily morning Masses. In fact they joined us for our community day at the Korean Parish on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Tim spoke on St. Paul's friendship with St. Barnabas as charismatic leaders, and how because of his youthful enthusiasm, Paul eventually lost that friendship and later, with more wisdom, was able to give his discourse on love to the Corinthians "Love is patient, kind..." etc. Funerals, weddings, baptisms, blessings, confessions, and the various meetings and activities that encompass a parish setting have made September an extraordinary, active month.

It concluded with Coadjutor Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, saying the 11:15 a.m. Mass on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with Salesians concelebrating. He gave the homily, and later joined the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast at our Don Bosco Gym. All in all, with the *Legion of Mary* and *St. Vincent de Paul Society* holding their meetings in our various facilities, and the *Catholic Women's League* hosting the various funeral receptions in our Mary Help of Christians Hall, I can honestly say that our team effort rose to all these precious occasions.

**SHERBROOKE, QC.** Les jours passent et ne se ressemblent pas. Déjà un peu plus d'un mois de l'année scolaire qui est chose du passé. Mais les fruits demeurent, espérons-le! La nature est entrée dans une autre saison. Ceux qui connaissent le Québec se souviendront que c'est la saison des couleurs. Ici au Séminaire, entourés d'un magnifique boisé d'érables, nous sommes témoins d'une explosion de jaune, de rose et de rouge. Mais la nature aura vite fait de nous rappeler comment la vie est éphémère; quelques heures de pluie et de vent et ces arbres seront mis à nu, prêts à affronter le dur hiver canadien, tout en préparant silencieusement la douce sève du printemps.

Le 21 septembre avait lieu le *Tournoi de Golf* du Salésien au *Golf Orford*. Cette activité annuelle organisée au profit de la *Fondation du SS* rassemblait quelque 125 membres du personnel et d'anciens du Salésien. L'un des traits peut-être qui caractérisent cette institution est l'attachement à cette «école-famille» de ceux qui y sont passés. Il ne se passe presque pas une journée sans que des anciens reviennent «faire un tour». Et bien sûr, nous sommes fiers d'eux, comme eux le sont de leur *Alma Mater*. Fiers de lire leurs succès, de voir leur photo dans les journaux, lors d'un événement spécial. Une bonne surface du babillard du *Couloir des Anciens* contient toujours plusieurs coupures de journaux, surtout de *La Tribune*, du *Journal de Sherbrooke* et de *La Nouvelle*, exposant leurs «exploits».

Nous les retrouvons dans la vie publique. Deux d'entre eux, Jean-François Rouleau et Marc Denault, sont conseillers municipaux de la Ville de Sherbrooke. On ne peut se vanter d'avoir eu comme élève le Premier Ministre du Québec, M. Jean Charest, cet honneur appartenant à notre voisine, l'*École Secondaire Montcalm*. Luc Berthold est maire de Thedford Mines. Dans le monde du sport, mentionnons Bertrand Fabi (+1986), Jean-Marc Rozon, Jean-François Laroche, Richard Pierre-Gilles. La vie artistique: chanson (Jim Corcoran, Tristan

Malavoy, Olivier Brouseau). Théâtre: Hugo Dubé, Carole Facal. Musique, compositeur et auteur: Maxime Mckinley. Cinéma: Youri Paillé, Marc-Antoine Beaudette, Pierre Marcoux. Architecture: Rémi Petit. Journalisme: François Cadieux. Monde des affaires: Pierre Dion, Vincent Felteau, Benoit Riendeau, les 3 frères Cameron. Vraiment j'avais l'intention de ne mentionner que 4 ou 5 noms, mais une fois la chaîne commencée... et ce n'est pas tout. J'espère y revenir à un autre moment. Oui, le Salésien est vraiment fier de ses anciens!

«Lors d'une conférence de presse (*ndlr: tenue ici le 11 sept.*) haute en couleur et très animée, le président et chef de la direction de *Quebecor*, Pierre-Karl Péladeau, a annoncé un don de 150 000\$ à la campagne majeure de financement de la *Fondation du Séminaire Salésien* tandis que le président et chef de la direction du *Groupe TVA*, Pierre Dion (*ndlr: ancien du Salésien*), a confirmé une contribution financière de 75,000\$ à la même cause.» (Chronique de Ghislain Allard, *Le Journal de Sherbrooke*, le 12/09).

Et sous le titre **QUEBECOR ET TVA INJECTENT 225 000\$ DANS LE PROJET**, le texte rapporte les paroles de M. Pierre -K. Péladeau à cette occasion: «*En rendant possible la construction d'un centre culturel dont pourront bénéficier autant les artistes en herbe que les artistes établis, Quebecor poursuit une tradition d'engagement envers la culture, l'éducation et l'aide à la jeunesse qui date de 50 ans. Ainsi les élèves du Séminaire Salésien mais aussi le grand public de toute la région pourront profiter d'un nouveau lieu de diffusion culturelle à l'avant-garde, ce qui s'inscrit dans notre volonté d'appuyer les initiatives culturelles ayant un impact majeur dans différentes régions du Québec*» Après la conférence de presse à laquelle plusieurs personnalités de la région participaient, dont le recteur de l'Université de Sherbrooke, M. Péladeau s'est entretenu pendant près d'une heure avec les élèves de la 5<sup>e</sup> Secondaire, bien à

l'aise avec leurs intelligentes questions leurs questions.

Et de M. Pierre Dion qui assumait la présidence de la campagne de financement, j'aimerais citer encore ses paroles (de la même chronique). *«J'ai rapidement accepté ce grand défi. Je suis natif de Sherbrooke. Mes parents y habitent encore. Mon cœur est encore à Sherbrooke. Je suis un ancien du Séminaire Salésien. Ce que j'ai appris là dépasse très largement les matières scolaires. Le Salésien forme des leaders avec des valeurs de droiture et de générosité. Je suis très fier de la contribution du Groupe TVA à cette campagne.»*

Le 3 octobre sera la journée d'accueil des 5<sup>e</sup> et 6<sup>e</sup> années de diverses écoles primaires de Sherbrooke et de la région. Ceci en prévision de leur choix d'école secondaire dans un an ou deux--pour leur donner le goût du Salésien! Et il y a un invité de marque, Charles Lafortune, de TVA, un acteur et animateur de variétés et de jeux. La graduation des finissants 2008 se tiendra le lendemain, avec remise de diplômes et de l'album '08, ainsi que du *Prix du Gouverneur Général*.

Comme depuis quelques années, s'est tenu le *Salon du Bénévolat* à la Salle Père-Décarie afin d'inculquer à nos jeunes le goût de donner du temps gratuitement aux autres. Et dans tout ce train de vie, *Opération Soleil* (vente d'oranges & pamplemousses) vient d'être lancée.

Le 8 septembre, le Père Roméo, accompagné du P. Paul C. et entouré de la famille de la défunte, présidait une Célébration de la Parole au Cimetière St- Michel de Sherbrooke lors de l'inhumation des cendres de Mme Colette Lapeyrie, décédée en mars dernier à Rosemère. Plusieurs de nos lecteurs l'ont connue: elle était la mère de Gérard Lapeyrie, directeur adjoint du Salésien, décédé en 1976. – De plus, quatre confrères de notre communauté célébraient ce jour-là, en la fête de la Nativité de la BVM, l'anniversaire de leur profession religieuse.

Quelques jours plus tard les PP. Richard et Roméo s'envolaient vers San Francisco afin de participer à la rencontre annuelle des 3 conseils sdb de l'Amérique du Nord (13-17/09). La rencontre se tenait à l'Institut de Spiritualité des Salésiens à quelques pas de l'*University California-Berkeley*. La douzaine de sujets à l'étude nous a quand même permis, les 1<sup>er</sup> et dernier jours de notre séjour de visiter cette magnifique ville.

Nous nous sommes joints aux religieuses/x du diocèse de Sherbrooke au Sanctuaire de Beauvoir le dimanche 21/09. Le conférencier invité était M. l'abbé Léandre Boisvert, exégète et accompagnateur spirituel, qui nous a entretenus d'une façon très intéressante et profitable sur la prière: *Comment Devenir des Adorateurs 'en esprit et en vérité'*.

Le grand événement ecclésial qui retiendra notre attention ce mois-ci, c'est le Synode des évêques qui se tiendra à Rome du 5 au 26 octobre. C'est une rencontre de quelque 250 évêques du monde entier réunis autour du Pape Benoît XVI. Le thème abordé lors de ce synode sera: *La Parole de Dieu dans la Vie et la Mission de l'Église*. Citons à ce sujet une parole célèbre de saint Jérôme dont nous avons célébré la fête liturgique il y a quelques jours: *«Ignorer les Écritures, c'est ignorer le Christ.»* Saint Augustin nous rappelle encore que vaine serait la prédication de la Parole de Dieu par celui *«qui ne l'écouterait pas au-dedans de lui»*. En bon prédicateur, le Pape Benoît XVI rappelle que l'Église doit toujours *« se renouveler et rajeunir, et la Parole de Dieu, qui ne vieillit pas et ne s'épuise jamais, est un moyen privilégié pour cela. »* Posséder un exemplaire de la Bible et l'avoir sous la main ne pousse pas toujours à l'ouvrir et à la lire.

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**EDMONTON, AB. St. Dominic Savio Parish.** The first weekend of September had a "welcome back" for all parishioners. Fr. Bernie

participated at the opening school celebrations and “meet the teacher” evenings during the first and second week of the month at our local schools. Bible study, RCIA and CIC programs have all started again. To better facilitate learning, Deacon José from St. John Bosco parish has volunteered to teach our teenagers journeying in the RCIA separately from the adults. On September 20 and 21, Fr. Richard Authier stopped at St. Dominic Parish for a pastoral visit on his way back from California and Surrey. We really tried to “fatten him up” by feeding him here Saturday evening at a St. Vincent de Paul potluck and then taking him over to St. John Bosco for a perogy supper! Our youth minister has been busy with training sessions and a weekend retreat for the youth team volunteers. The CWL ladies baked many pies the last week of September and sold them here on the weekend along with having a coffee/Tim Bit social after all Masses. The parish office is currently preparing for the upcoming First Reconciliation registration meeting.

**St. John Bosco Parish.** September 12-24 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: *“It is right to give thanks and praise.”* These words from the Preface of the Mass are appropriate to express the feeling of joy at the return from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We walked in the footsteps of Jesus from Nazareth to Golgotha. We had a knowledgeable guide who pointed out places and history from the Old and New Testaments. We celebrated Mass in the most meaningful churches: the Holy Family in Nazareth, the new church above the house of St. Peter in Capernaum, on Mount Tabor, the place of the transfiguration, the place where Jesus shed tears for Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives (*Dominus Flevit*), the grotto of the shepherds in Bethlehem, the room of the Last Supper, and finally at Emmaus. Everywhere we prayed for the people of our parish, for friends and relatives.

## **INTERVIEW: Father George Harkins, SDB**

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

I was born on June 1, 1942, at St Joseph’s hospital in St. John, N.B., and baptized on June 9 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, where my mother (a convert from Anglicanism) married my father on June 24, 1941. Our home parish was Saints Peter and Paul in the west end of the city. I attended St. Peter’s Boys School from 1948 to 1950. My dad, who was a diesel mechanic with the SMT bus line, was transferred from St. John to Sherbrooke, Quebec, during the summer of 1950 to work for the Quebec Central bus company. From 1950 to 1955 (grades 3 to 7) I attended St. Patrick’s Academy under the direction of the Presentation Brothers of Ireland; they advocated and applied the repressive method of education by using the strap and the rod for discipline.

### ***Is it in Sherbrooke that you first met the Salesians?***

Yes, indeed. In 1955 the Salesians arrived at St. Patrick’s High School under the capable leadership of Fr. Paul Avallone and of Fr. Ted Ciampi. What a contrast between educational methods! The Salesians and lay staff created wonderful rapport with everyone. We came to know St. John Bosco and believed that he lived on in the person of Fr. Hector Carnevale, our confessor.

I had a very peaceful and happy childhood. I loved school and I had a facility with languages. I was involved with the school council as well as with the St. Dominic Savio Club, Blessed Sacrament Sodality, and Immaculate Conception Sodality. I was also an altar server for ten years at St. Patrick’s Parish. The fact that we had a school Mass every day with the opportunity for confession helped me greatly to weather my adolescence. In addition, my involvement in dramatics, basketball,

volleyball and intramurals helped me to round off my early character formation.

***How did your Salesian vocation develop?***

From the time I was a child I had always dreamed of becoming a priest, but I kept it pretty much to myself until my last year of high school when, during a friendly chat with Fr. Avallone, the principal, he asked me point-blank, “Did you ever consider becoming a priest?” I admitted that I had been thinking about it, but that I didn’t know what to do. From then on, all the doors opened up for me. I was invited by Fr. Felix Penna, the American Salesian provincial, to attend the Son of Mary program in Newton, N.J. So, after my high school graduation in June of 1959, off I went to the USA. What a challenge and new adventure for me! I fell immediately in love with the Salesian way of life, especially the great family spirit. I made my novitiate in 1960-61 under Fr. Attilio Giovannini. This was followed by four years of college, from which I graduated *cum laude* in 1965.

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

After graduating from Don Bosco College, Newton, N.J., my first obedience was to go to Ipswich, Mass., to our minor seminary for two years to teach and to assist some 40 young seminarians. In 1967 I was deported back to Canada because I no longer had a student visa. I was sent to the Séminaire Salésien in Sherbrooke.

***I believe that you remained there quite a few years...***

Yes, I remained there from 1967 until 2002. Yes, 35 years! During this time I served as an English, religion, and physical education teacher, athletic director (23 years), and vice principal for 12 years. I also pursued my studies for a Bacc. in Theology and a Master’s in School Ministry (Pastorale Scolaire). At various other intervals I obtained a Bacc. in

physical education and a certificate in school administration.

***You are now a priest, ministering in the Toronto area. Is it very different from what you were doing in Sherbrooke all these years?***

I was ordained a deacon in transition in 1972. After a sabbatical year in 2002, I was finally ordained a priest on August 15, 2003, by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, SDB. Thereafter I was sent to Toronto as director of the Toronto-Hamilton Salesian community. Some of the other highlights of my years in Sherbrooke were certainly the organisation of our annual sports banquets with the presence of hockey players from the NHL. There was also the organisation of the 30th and 40th anniversaries of the founding of the Séminaire as well as my participation as a radio reporter at the World University Games in Edmonton in 1983, the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984, and the Canada Games in 1986. On a personal level, I would also mention my participation in five marathons and the cycling of over fifty thousand kilometres over a period of ten years.

***Education, especially through sports and physical activities, seems to have been a constant of your Salesian life.***

As you can see for yourself, I dedicated over 30 years to educating the young by means of sport. Through various sports activities, I, with the help of coaches, of course, communicated the Christian values of self-discipline, loyalty, perseverance, cheerfulness, honesty and fortitude as well as a taste for effort and fair play. In brief, we sought to develop sound minds in sound bodies (*mens sana in corpore sano*). The crowning pedagogical and religious events for me were the numerous weddings and baptisms I performed for many of our past student-athletes. The most difficult stage of my life was to leave Sherbrooke for Toronto right after ordination.

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

There were many new challenges for me as a minister of the Word of God, an administrator of the sacraments, and the creation of new relationships. Now after five years, the facets of my priestly ministry which I value the most are the confessions of young people, the daily celebration of Holy Mass, and the many new spiritual relationships. Some of the most meaningful experiences of my Salesian priestly life are the accompaniment of the sick and dying as well as my involvement with the many youth groups in our parish, especially with the SLR (Salesian Leadership Retreats), the Dominic Savio Club after-school program, the Squires (the youth wing of the Knights of Columbus), and the preparation of the young for the sacraments of initiation.

*A last question: what message would you like to leave to Salesians and to young people?*

What message would I give to Salesians and to young people? I would have to admit that the developing and nurturing of wholesome relationships with those with whom we live and play and pray are very important. We accomplish this through commitment, sharing and celebrating the presence of God in all that we say and do.

In conclusion, on the occasion of a witness talk I gave to a class of Toronto high school students recently, one of them asked me: If you could, is there anything that you would do differently in your life? My answer was, "Yes, I would want to be less self-sufficient and more trusting of God in my life." I am grateful to God for all the gifts He has given me and brought to fruition.

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**IN OCTOBER WE REMEMBER...**

### **Liturgical feasts**

- 5: Blessed Albert Marvelli
- 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

- 11: Blessed John XXIII
- 13: Blessed Alexandrina da Costa, SC
- 24: Blessed Louis Guanella

### **Happy Birthday!**

- 9: G. Costamagna
- 24: Drago Gacnik
- 26: Jan Staszal

### **Religious Profession**

- 21: G. Costamagna

### **Priesthood**

- 9: Mike Pace

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**The correspondents** for the communities are: **Surrey**-Bro. Jerry; **Edmonton**-Ann Harding; **Toronto**-Fr. George H; **Montreal**-Fr. Enzo; **Sherbrooke**-Fr. Romeo.

Occasionally I ask others to contribute if they wish (among whom: Fr. Donne, Fr. Lebel, Fr. Pillet, Fr. Richard, Bro. Jim, etc.; they are always welcome even if not asked, **just as others** not mentioned here).

**Partagez votre joie: envoyez quelques nouvelles.**

**Share your life: send news.**

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**Strenna 2009 Étrenne**

Engageons-nous à faire de la Famille salésienne un vaste mouvement de personnes pour le salut des jeunes.

Let us commit ourselves to making the Salesian Family a vast movement of persons for the salvation of the young.