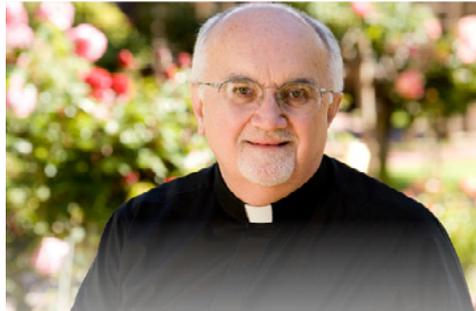




INTOUCH

April 5
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



April 5, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

Today Holy Thursday we begin the Paschal Triduum, the most sacred three days of the Lord's Passover, and ours. May each of us in the Salesian Family enter deeply into the mystery of the Lord's Supper today, the Lord's Passion and Death tomorrow on Good Friday, the Lord's Burial and Vigil in the Tomb on Holy Saturday, and his glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday. This Paschal Triduum unfolds for us the heart of the Gospel, and invites us in, so that with Christ we too might pass over from death to life.

Our Christian life is to give witness to the truth of this Gospel. So too is our Salesian life. It is for this reason that the theme chosen by the Rector Major for the next General Chapter is evangelical to its depths. It comes from Pascual, and it is Paschal through and through, because it calls us to make our lifestyle as Salesians more radically Gospel oriented, in other words to make our lifestyle as Salesians more paschal.

At the end of this issue of InTouch you will find Fr. Pascual's letter announcing the theme of the next General Chapter: "Witnesses of Evangelical Radicality." It's only a three page letter. Please read it

carefully and reflect on it deeply.

I say it is providential that it comes during the Paschal Triduum. What could give more witness to Evangelical Radicality than to live more transparently the Eucharist, the priesthood, and the Lord's example of humble and loving service that Jesus gives us in the Holy Thursday washing of the feet? In the Eucharist, both celebrated and reserved, Jesus is the ultimate Salesian assistant: present, accompanying, serving.

What could give more witness to Evangelical Radicality than to live more transparently the Cross of Jesus, to be present with him there, to accompany him along with Mary and the beloved disciple, to help others, especially the young, carry their crosses? On his cross and in his tomb Jesus is the ultimate Salesian assistant: fulfilling his promise to give of his last breath for us, his "poor boys."

What could give more witness to Evangelical Radicality than to live more transparently our joy that Jesus has indeed risen, that he is with us, that he will come again? No accident that the Oratory found its permanent home on Easter Sunday of 1846, that Don Bosco was canonized on Easter Sunday of 1934.

The prayer to St. John Bosco we are saying daily in preparation for the bicentennial of his birth beautifully connects these two events, the Pasch and the Chapter, when it prays for us to understand "that only in Jesus and in his Gospel can both we and the young in our care find true meaning in our lives." Only in

the Gospel. Happy Easter!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

April 2012

- 5-8 Office and Personal Days
- 9 Province Easter Dinner
- 10 PROVINCE DAY, Three Rivers, CA
- 11 Directors/Pastors Meeting, Three Rivers, CA
- 12 Office Day
- 13 Travel to San Antonio, TX
- 14 SNAC West Meeting, FMA Provincial House
- 15-17 Provincial Council Meeting, San Luis Rey Parish, Laredo, TX
- 18 Travel Day
- 19 Office Day

Pray for Our Sick

Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB

Rector Major

Bro. Bruno DePretto, SDB

Beverly Hospital

Bro. Bob Hennings, SDB

Fr. Bob Stein, SDB

Bro. Phil Mandile, SDB

broken ribs

Jay Trinidad

brother of Fr. Mel

heart attack

Greg Wertz

brother of Fr. Jerry

intensive care

Department of Building and Safety Visits DeSales

By Bro Joseph Lockwood, SDB

March 28, 2012 was a big day for the renovation project because the City of Bellflower's Department of Building and Safety inspected the rough plumbing work on the first and the third floors and at the same time inspected the rough electrical work on the third floor.

The project's favorite building Inspector, Kris Anderson, showed up around 1:30 pm to begin the inspection. He first inspected the installation of the electrical, communication and fire protection conduits for the elevator. The electricians were working and he had a few comments about the installation of the conduits.

He then went to the third floor measuring the electrical receptacles in the students' bedrooms, and the light switches to see if they meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements. Yes, he found a few light switches that needed to be lowered. He also wanted all the conduit boxes labeled to indicate if they were electrical or communications or fire protection, etc.

The electricians speak either Spanish or Chinese. The inspector had a little problem communicating with them but his message to them

was communicated by the contractor.

The next area that needed inspecting were the rough plumbing in the common bathroom on the first floor, the handicapped showers and toilets in the common bathrooms both on the second and third floors, and the handicapped bedroom on the third floor.

At the end of the inspection, he passed the plumbing and the electrical work with a few corrections to be in compliance with the ADA standards.

Later in the afternoon there was a meeting with Mr. Chris Christopoulos, C.B.O., Assistant Building Official, the contractor and the architect from Barrio Planners to finalize the grading plan. Mr. Christopoulos stressed at the meeting that we must be in compliance with ADA Regulations in regards to concrete sidewalk slopes. At the same meeting a discussion with Mr. Christopoulos was held about the partial removal of the concrete wall on the south side of the property to provide proper visibility for egressing vehicles from the apartment building complex.



Frank Lim (center) Juno Electric System, Alhambra reviews with his electricians the locations of the conduits pipe to be installed in the elevator wall.



Vicente Aguilar removes the old finish from the students' bedroom doors.



Building Inspector Kris Anderson signs off for the electrical and plumbing work.



Alex DeLeon reviews the sidewalk grade slopes with Chris Christopoulos, City of Bellflower and Alfredo Urbina.

InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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Weekly publications will be distributed on Thursdays. Please submit news for publication by Friday of each week.
Send contributions to:
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Young FMA Reflect on the RE Congress

Having attended the LA Congress last year for the first time, I was anxious at what was to come with this year's event. I could not wait to get my tickets in the mail to see if I got the sessions that I had signed up for. The speakers were amazing, every one of them that I heard said something that really touched my heart and just what I needed to hear in that moment. The best part of Congress for me was just walking around in either the arena or the exhibit hall and stopping to talk to people, hearing their story and what their ministry is while sharing with them my story and telling them about the Salesians.

~Lindsay Durham, FMA postulant

This was my first LA Religious Education Congress and it was incredible in its entirety. The prayer services were spectacular! (I especially enjoyed the music and the liturgical dances), the breakout sessions were informative and resourceful, and the various events throughout the day were inspiring and joyful. However, my favorite part was the celebration of Mass on Thursday with Archbishop Gomez and 15,000 teens. The energy, enthusiasm and genuine love for Christ that the young showed was so uplifting and spirit-rousing. It reminded me of youth rallies my parish has had back home, but magnified by thousands. Overall, I was very pleased with the Congress and look forward to having the opportunity to take part in it again sometime.

~Megan Zeugner, FMA postulant

I enjoyed the RES Congress 2012. The speakers I attended were well informed of their subject and presented their material in an easy to understand way. I also liked the singers and musicians that performed and helped us pray in the Liturgy. I think my favorite part of Congress was attending an Armenian Rite Mass. It was fascinating to experience how another tradition celebrates our Catholic Faith.

~Stephanie Donham, FMA postulant



Paul Kim (Congress Speaker), Steve DeMaio (SDB Novice), Danielle Rose (Musician), Melissa Benitez (in discernment with FMA's), Megan Zeugner (FMA Postulant), and John Langan (SDB Novice) after the Contemplative Mass on Friday evening



Archbishop Jose Gomez during the consecration on Youth Day

SDB Birthdays April

- 7 Nick Reina
- 8 Tho Bui
- 10 Mike Herbers
- 11 Steven Way
- 17 Carmine Vairo

Report on the Health of the Rector Major



(ANS – Rome) – The Vicar General, Fr. Adriano Bregolin, has issued a short report on the health of the Rector Major Fr. Pascual Chávez for the benefit of Salesians and members of the Salesian Family.

Some time ago, the news was given, especially to the Salesian Provincials, that the Rector Major has had some health problems. In order to ensure that everyone is aware of the real state of affairs, I should like to make clear that the main problem regards a liver condition which has recently been diagnosed as Hepatitis C.

This illness was probably contracted some time ago when our Rector Major, in the course of two serious operations, was given some blood transfusions. It would seem the sources of this illness are not the most serious type and this makes the outcome of the cures being implemented more effective. It is therefore a health

situation which is not serious but is to be treated with due care and attention. In these months the Rector Major has been under the care of doctors at the Pathological Liver Centre at Borgo Trento in Verona and by those at the

Haematology Department of the Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome. The treatment provided so far has been aimed at preparing the best physiological conditions to begin the specific treatment of the illness. The Rector Major is not suffering from any particular problems. He is living a normal life. He is working hard and, as always, is content in his work of governing and animating the Congregation. In the next few weeks time he will begin the specific treatment, which will mean that he will be staying at the Generalate on a more regular basis. During the next few months his travels, especially abroad, will have to be curtailed. The Rector Major asks me to pass on his gratitude to all the Salesians, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and all the members of the Salesian Family for their prayers offered of his behalf and for his health.

*- Fr. Adriano Bregolin,
Vicar of the Rector Major*

Young People: Rejoice in the Lord Always

(ANS – Rome) – World Youth Day is an annual event: at international level every two or three years and at diocesan level in the intervening years on Palm Sunday. Benedict XVI has given young people in the dioceses throughout the world his message for the XXVII WYD, which inevitably recalls that held in Madrid last August and looks forward to the next one in Rio de Janeiro. Fr. Fabio Attard, Councillor for Youth Ministry takes us through the message...

This message of the Pope for WYD 2012 starts from the invitation to rejoice found in the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" (4,4). The Pope offers a simple reflection beginning in the hearts of the young – a heart made for joy; he proposes Christ as its source; and invites them to see life as the place for joy.

1. The first challenge is to know how to respond to the question, "Where is the source of joy?" The Pope begins with Jesus because he shows fully the joy that God has for everything that lives. It is meeting Jesus that leads one to a great inner joy. We find this in Jesus' ministry, and also in that crucial moment at the hour of his passion when

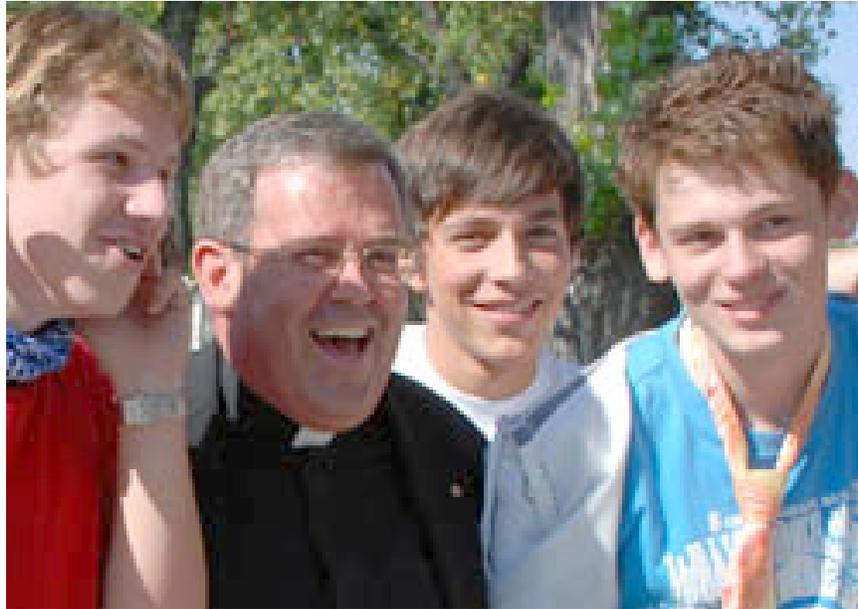
at the end of his earthly life at supper with his friends he says: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:9,11). Jesus wants to lead his disciples and each one of us into the fullness of joy that he shares with the Father, so that the Father's love for him might abide in us (cf. Jn 17:26). The same joy-filled experience is reported in the Gospels on the day of the Resurrection: "Peace be with you!" (Mt 28,8-9). It is the joy of Christ, the living one, the victor over evil, sin and death.

2. If Christ is the source our life is to be lived in joy. He then turns to the question: "How to preserve Christian joy in the heart?" He gives a simple answer: "Dear young people, do not be afraid to risk your lives by making space for Jesus Christ and his Gospel."

This goes hand in hand with a life of faith: "Joy is the fruit of faith. It is being aware of his presence and friendship every day: "The Lord is near!" This is the way based on faith enlightened by the Word, nourished by the liturgy, by the celebration of the eucharistic, the sacrament of penance

and finally by a commitment to "allowing fraternal love to grow in your lives and in those of your communities." These three elements that lead to the joy of love.

3. The Pope then refers to the approaching "Year of faith"



Fr. Fabio Attard with youth

which will be a help and encouragement. At the same time he speaks about two young people, Pier Giorgio Frassati and Chiara Badano who lived that joy to the full. The first wrote: "You ask me if I am happy. How could I not be? As long as faith gives me strength, I am happy. A Catholic could not be other than happy... The goal for which we were created involves a path which has its thorns, but it is not a sad path. It is joy, even when it involves pain" (Letter to his sister Luciana, Turin, 14 February 1925). While Chiara declared: "It was really a moment of

God's presence. I was suffering physically, but my soul was singing" (Letter to Chiara Lubich, Sassello, 20 December 1989).

4. Finally, the Pope urges young people to be missionaries of joy. Someone following Christ cannot be happy if others are not. Joy has to be shared. A joy that come from the faith conviction that we are never alone, that God is always holding us in his hands!

Two other quotations worth quoting which the Pope mentions: one from Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Joy is a net of love by

which you can catch souls; God loves a cheerful giver. Whoever gives with joy gives more." The second is from the Servant of God Paul VI: "In God himself, all is joy because all is giving."

"Joy is the fruit of faith. It is being aware of his presence and friendship every day: "The Lord is near!"

– Pope Benedict XVI

Rest in Peace Anne C. Gibbs

Salesian Cooperator



Anne Conway Gibbs was born in Scottdale, Pennsylvania on November 1, 1921. She was the fourth of five siblings raised by James and Mary Conway. Her Catholic faith was always a strong driving force in her life. In elementary school, the depression hit her family and community very hard. At a young age, she began teaching religious education in a deprived part of town following the closure of the Catholic schools. At 21, she enlisted in the Coast Guard. While serving in the Coast Guard for three years, she met her future husband, Richard Gibbs, originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

After they were both discharged from the Coast Guard, they married on June 13, 1946 in Scottdale, PA. They settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and on May 6, 1947 had their first child, Mary Anne. They relocated to Bellflower, California in 1953 in hopes of finding more stable employment for Richard and to be closer to her sister Margaret. After relocating, she worked for the telephone company for two years. On November 1, 1957 they

had their second child, Alice Marie.

In 1955 Anne began work as a bookkeeper for Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead, being among the first employees when the school opened. She served there for 31 years, and in "retirement" worked as a bookkeeper for three more years at her parish, St. Dominic Savio, and then part time for the Salesian Community.

Being part of the St. Dominic Savio parish and serving as a Salesian Cooperator were integral parts of Ann's life. In fact, she was very involved in the beginnings of St. Dominic Savio, where she helped to start the parish CCD program before the FMA arrived. She also put together a library of religious books for the parishioners, with sections for adults and children, and a religious goods shop in the Parish Hall after Sunday masses. Fr. Joe Boenzi recounts, "It was in the Hall that I first got to know Anne Gibbs when I was 9 years old. I used to get books from the library and read them during the period after Sunday mass when my parents were socializing with people. In those days I would have little chats with "Mrs. Gibbs" about church, mass, good books: she always had good suggestions for me in that area."

Ann helped form the first St. Dominic Savio Parish Council and served as its President. Her many means of service in the parish included serving as Coordinator and President of the Women's Council, Coordinator of "Renew," Coordinator of RCIA

and participation in Eucharistic Ministry, Pre-Baptism Ministry and Bereavement Ministry. Anne enjoyed working at countless fiestas at Savio. She was also very active in the Inter-Faith celebrations in Bellflower. She was very active with ACCW serving as her parish representative, 2nd Vice President and twice served as President of the Southeastern District of ACCW. She was also President of the Savio unit of Cooperators, and the Province Coordinator for all the Cooperators in the Salesian Western Province from 1997-2003. In 1984 Ann Gibbs was one of the key players in reviving the practice of the Province Day, using the format of the Religious Education Congress for the gathering, and involving all members of the Salesian Family. In 1993 Anne was honored by Pope John Paul II with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award.

In 2008, Anne moved to Washington State where both her daughters reside. She lived with Mary Anne and her husband Bob in Medical Lake, WA and was able to make frequent visits to see her daughter Alice and her husband Joe and boys in Covington, WA. She enjoyed being close to her daughters and their husbands, grandchildren and great grandchildren. At age 90, Anne died peacefully on March 12, 2012 with both of her daughters at her bedside. Surviving relatives include her brother Joe, daughter Mary Anne and husband Bob and their 3 daughters, her daughter Alice and husband Joe and their 4 children as well as two great grandchildren.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!



“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.’ Jesus said, ‘Mary!’ She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbuni!’ -- which means Master. Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and that he had said these things to her.” (John. 20, 15-18)

“Talking to Jesus, thinking he is the gardener, Mary only recognizes him at the calling of her name. Mary reaches out to embrace Jesus, but he prevents her from this embrace saying, ‘Do not cling to me, for I have not ascended

yet to my God and your God, to my Father and your Father.’ Michael Winstanley, SDB, explains this powerfully, clarifying that Jesus is saying to Mary that she must not cling to her old understanding of Jesus but come to a new reality that moves her beyond discipleship toward membership in his own family. Now his God is her God and his Father is her Father! Wow.” - Fr. John Roche, SDB

*Happy Easter,
Salesian Family!*



DIREZIONE GENERALE OPERE DON BOSCO
Via della Pisana 1111 - 00163 Roma
Il Rettor Maggiore

Prot. 12/0115
Rome, 4 April 2012

To
All the Salesians in the Congregation

Dear Confreres,

Today, 4th April, Wednesday of the Holy Week, we have concluded the plenary session of the General Council in which we have reflected on the theme and the aims of the next General Chapter. Even earlier in the Council we had discussed the challenges that the Congregation faces today. The Team Visits that followed made us perceive further elements to understand the situation better. Now, the choice of the theme of the GC aims to answer these challenges, in order to help the Congregation to move ahead on the path the Holy Spirit shows us in the present historical context.

Theme of GC27: “Witnesses of Evangelical Radicality”

This chosen theme of witnessing to Evangelical Radicality finds in Don Bosco’s motto “work and temperance” (cfr. Const. 18) an explication of his project of life, “da mihi animas cetera tolle”. It aims to help us to deepen our charismatic identity, making us aware of our call to live the apostolic project of Don Bosco faithfully.

The theme is vast. For this reason we wish to focus the attention of GC27 around four areas: living the grace of unity and the joy of our Salesian consecrated *vocation* as gift from God and personal project of life; having a deep *spiritual experience*, by taking on Jesus’ obedient, poor and chaste style of life and action, thus becoming seekers of God; building *fraternity* in the life and activities of our communities; generous commitment to the *mission*, journeying with the young to give hope to the world.

Fundamental Objective of GC27

GC27 aims to *help every confrere and community to live the apostolic plan of Don Bosco faithfully*. In continuity with GC26, it wishes to further strengthen our charismatic identity. Such an aim is already presented to us in the first articles of our Constitutions: in fact, we Salesians are called to “carry out the Founder’s apostolic plan in a specific form of religious life”¹; besides, in our specific

¹ Const. 2

form of life “our apostolic mission our fraternal community and the practice of the evangelical counsels are the inseparable elements of our consecration which we live in a single movement of love towards God and towards our brothers.”²

Fruits of GC27

We hope that GC27 will render our Salesian life more authentic and hence visible, credible and fertile. This is possible if our life is strongly and vitally built on God, and will strengthen our charismatic identity if it is rooted in Christ and his Gospel with courage and conviction. It is again for this motive that in the past six years we were committed to starting afresh from Don Bosco, reawakening the heart of every confrere with the apostolic passion of the “*da mihi animas cetera tolle*”. Faithfully living the apostolic project of Don Bosco, i.e., living our charismatic identity, will make us more authentic; when identity is lived, it gives rise to *visibility, credibility and vocational fruitfulness*. The visibility we talk of basically refers to the wonderful witness to our vocation, and not to the care of an outward appearance. If we faithfully and happily witness to the apostolic project of Don Bosco, that is, to our Salesian consecrated vocation, then will our lives become attractive and fascinating, especially to the young and we will become vocationally fruitful.

Other Tasks of GC27

Besides the study of the theme, GC27 has other special tasks. First of all there is *election of the Rector Major and of the members of the General Council* for the term of 2014-2020.

Then it has to carry out and verify some requests made by GC25 and GC26, or some changes they had introduced:

- There is the important *revision of the organization and structure of the departments of our mission*: youth ministry, missions and social communications (Cf. GC26, 117, 118)
- Reflection on the *organization of the three Regions of Europe* (Cf. GC25 124, 126, 129); this becomes still more necessary due to the decision to reorganize the six provinces of Spain into only two after GC27.
- We need to evaluate the assignment of *the charge of the Salesian Family to the Vicar of the Rector Major* that was done as demanded by constitutional change by the previous Chapters (Cf. GC25: 133 and GC26: 116)
- Finally, this “revision calls our attention to the entire structure of the General Council” and requires that GC27 make *an evaluation of the structures that animate and govern the Congregation*.

Beginning of GC27

Even if the Letter of Convocation will be sent to you in May, I would like to inform you early that GC27 will begin on Saturday, 22nd February 2014 in Turin, the cradle of our charism; work will continue then in Rome, in our Headquarters.

Moderator of GC27

I have appointed Fr. Francesco Cereda as the Moderator of General Chapter; I thank him for his availability to take on this commitment.

Technical Commission for GC27

On 2nd April, as per art. 112 of the General Regulations, I have appointed the Technical Commission for GC27, made up of the following confreres: Fr. Fabio Attard, Fr. Pier Fausto Frisoli, Fr. Filiberto Gonzalez, Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, Bro. Jean Paul Muller and Fr. José Miguel Nuñez. This commission will develop some guidelines that will appear in AGC 413: the itinerary for the preparation of GC27: guidelines for work on the Chapter theme; suggestions for the preparation and celebration of the provincial chapters; juridical norms for the elections.

Dear Confreres,

I wish to conclude this announcement of GC27 inviting every single confrere, community and province to foster the atmosphere and the attitudes for the concrete living out of “work and temperance”. I invite you also to accompany this event with prayer to Don Bosco, that I gave you already at the beginning of the three-year preparation for the Bi-centenary.

Today, as always, God calls us to holiness in Salesian life. This is possible if we live like Christ and our beloved founder and father. Don Bosco lived his life with a radiant face and with great joy and zest. At the same time he also lived it with great evangelical radicality, expressed in the twin words of “work and temperance”.

We are nearing the Bi-centenary of his birth. We need to reach the moment having regained the joy, the enthusiasm and the pride of being Salesians, so that we can honestly and convincingly propose the wonder of our vocation to the youth of today.

To Mary, Immaculate Help of Christians, I entrust GC27, and above all each and every one of you, dearest confreres, whom I love with the heart of Christ Jesus.



Don Pascual Chávez V., SDB
Rector Major