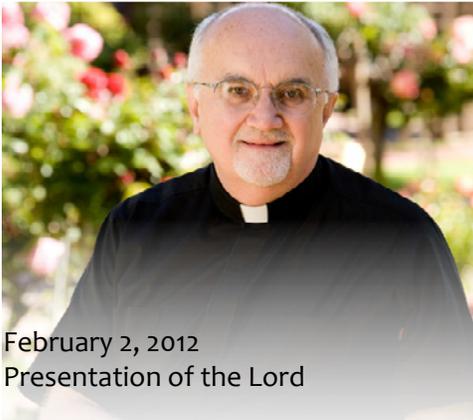




INTOUCH

Feb 2
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



February 2, 2012
Presentation of the Lord

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

It's a letter from Don Bosco himself! We often refer to his famous Letter from Rome of 1884, but this is his Letter from Heaven of 2012. I'm referring of course to the Rector Major's message to young people of the Salesian Youth Movement on Don Bosco's feast day last Tuesday: "I am writing to you as a father and friend, through my ninth successor." Please be sure to go to sdb.org for the full text and listen to our father speak.

"With the warm language of the heart" Don Bosco tells young people in this remarkable message that what he wants to do is "find the best words for tackling the mysterious, complex way to your heart, a heart so often hurt by adult indifference or betrayed love."

Once having found the way to their hearts, Don Bosco challenges them: "I am asking you young people to make a leap in quality, tackle things with renewed energy." Later he invites them "to dream with your heart inclined to God and your feet firmly planted on the ground," referring to his own dream at the age of nine which, though he did not understand how at the time, shaped his whole life according to God's plan.

Just like he did in his Letter from

Rome of 1884, here too he has a word or two for us adult Salesians. We Salesian educators and evangelizers, disciples and apostles, must

- "conceive of our lives as a service of love"
- "teach from an educational tradition of listening and respect rather than of preaching or tongue lashing"
- "suffer silence that reveals love and expectation rather than harsh scolding"
- with the impact "of authority flowing from a consistent and blameless life, rather than of power stemming from our role, or the law."

If we fail to make ourselves loved (much more than respected, obeyed, feared, understood), if we fail to lead our young people to know that they are loved (like the Good Shepherd), then, Don Bosco continues, "young people would die of cold," because the shadows of reason alone bring no light or warmth. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life. Jesus is the light. We Salesian educators cannot just "teach," we cannot just "organize," we cannot just "administer," we cannot even just "preach." We must love, enlighten, accompany our young to the fullness of life in Jesus.

Please read and discuss Pascual Chavez's letter signed by Don Bosco himself. Receive it as Don Bosco's message, on the 124th anniversary of his death, both to his beloved young people and to us his fellow Salesians.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

February 2012

- 2 Provincial Council Meeting, Soto Street
- 7 Members Meeting, St. Francis CCCHS, Watsonville
- 8-9 Office Days
- 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

Pray for Our Sick

Juan Trinidad

*father of Fr. Mel
heart, lung, and kidney problems
home hospice care*

Fr. Paul Caporali, SDB

*surgery for colon cancer
February 6, 2012*

Fr. Harry Rasmussen, SDB

Tri-City Hospital, pneumonia

May They Rest in Peace

Mrs. Rebecca Hood

*January 29, 2012
Mother of Chris Hood-Rosales,
former SDB*

Don Bosco's Feast Day Goes Viral

By Judy Wilber Alvarez

While the province and local communities celebrated the feast of Don Bosco in manifold ways like rallies, feast day liturgies, retreats, service opportunities, game shows and prayer, digital spaces also gave way to the celebration. In days leading up to and on the feast, Facebook updates were active with feast day greetings and YouTube channels transmitted videos new and old celebrating the blessing of Don Bosco in our lives. Moreover, Don Bosco was highlighted in Catholic networks and online publications. In short Don Bosco's feast went viral. Below are some highlights!



In the early morning hours of Monday, January 30, Joey Zarate, friend and collaborator in many of our works, published on his YouTube channel a video, which he shared on Facebook as a feast day greeting for all the Salesian Family. By the evening of January 31, it had been viewed 932 times! If you have not seen it, you can enjoy it now:
[Feast of St. John Bosco - Trailer](#)



A little later in the morning an email arrived from our own Br. Tony Matse which opened a link to *The Word Among Us* website. There they had posted an article by Bert Ghezzi entitled "Leading Kids to God – Don Bosco Style." In it Ghezzi states, "Although a priest and never married, St. John Bosco (1815–1888) was a naturally gifted parent." The article explores key ways Don Bosco was a gifted parent. Salesians, east and west, posted it in Facebook. [Leading Kids to God - Don Bosco Style](#)

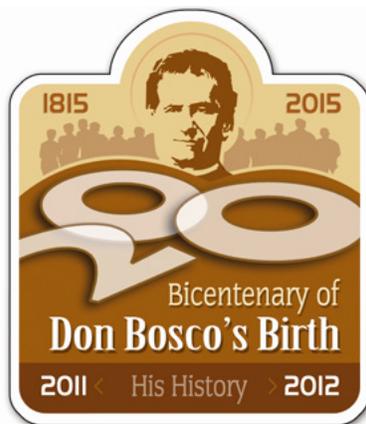


On the morning of the feast, January 31, Sean Bryan, SUO novice, also published on YouTube and Facebook channels a video put to the tune of "Dynamite," a parody written by the FMA novices and sung by children at the Salesian Boys and Girls Club LA. This video highlights images from Don Bosco's Relic pilgrimage and Salesian youth ministry. It was also shared with Region XI Diocesan YM Directors and staff at the NFCYM Office in D.C.
[Bosco Night - Don Bosco Relic Tour](#)



The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops also got into the celebration with two Facebook status updates, one a trivia question and the answer an hour later which led to their sharing the Letter of the Pope on the occasion of the 26th General Chapter of the Salesians.
[USCCB Facebook page](#)

All told who came to these online celebrations? Over 1100 people and still counting! Check out the links and have some fun!



Know, Love and Imitate Don Bosco

Memoirs of the Oratory

The Rector Major has urged all the Salesian family, including youth, to read this year Don Bosco's *Memoirs of the Oratory*. Recently www.sdb.org made a copy of the *Memoirs of the Oratory* available as an epub – an 'open' ebook format which any e-reader can open and read (except Kindle, but there are easy conversion methods from e-pub to Kindle format). You can download one at: [Memoirs of the Oratory](#)

Last weekend parishioners at St. Dominic Savio were able to place orders for *Memoirs of the Oratory*, which was on display after all the masses. The Social Communications Office will soon fill those orders. If you too would like a paperback copy of this book, which costs \$10.00, please call the Social Communications Office by Monday, February 6 at (626) 280-8622 #35 or email info@salesiansc.org.

We Are Salesian DVD



Perhaps another way to know, love and imitate Don Bosco is to revisit what stirred in our hearts during Don Bosco's Relic Pilgrimage. To this end the province DVD "**We Are Salesian**" is now available online at the Salesian Family YouTube channel. It is divided into four video parts:

[Opening Reflection](#)

[Called to Holiness](#)

[For the Young and the Poor](#)

[To Be Don Bosco Today](#)

You may also purchase a copy of it from the Salesian Communications Office for \$5.00 per copy. Happy viewing!

Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis De Sales

January 24, 2012

By Br. Joe Lockwood SDB

Fr. Ted Montemayor, pastor of St. Dominic Savio Parish, Bellflower, invited the local Salesian community of FMA sisters, their postulants, our pre-novice and candidates, a few friends and the St John Bosco & De Sales Hall Salesian communities to celebrate the feast of St. Francis de Sales.

At 4:15 p.m. the postulants led the community in an evening prayer service followed by the Good Night given by Fr. Ted. He spoke to the community about the virtues of St. Francis and how Don Bosco had adopted these virtues for his own personal life and for us Salesians.

After evening prayers, the community was invited to the rectory patio for a BBQ organized by Fr. Ted and Mrs. Myriam Rodriguez, Salesian Cooperator. The hors d'oeuvres were prepared by Valentino Colussi, Salesian Cooperator, and Mrs. Elisa Pinedo, the SJB community cook. The desserts for the feast were provided by the

mother of Myriam, Mrs. Myriam Delgado.

Quotes from the Rector Major's homily on the Feast of St Francis de Sales:

For Salesians "celebrating his feast is an invitation to work in all situations of life with that kind, patient and active love, so as to fill with a Christian spirit all ecclesial, social, political, economic and cultural structures to make them more human."

"Let us ask from the Lord the grace to discover and make our own the great virtues of Saint Francis of Sales, those which led our Father to choose him as his and our model."



Postulant Theresa Khong, Bro. Steve, Marianne Giovingo, Sister Vicki and Eva Dickson (Fr. Harry's Caregiver) enjoy the hors d'oeuvres.



Mr. Larry Arelano cooking the carne asada.



Myriam Rodriguez serving dessert to Sister Josephine Ochoa.



"Los Tres Amigos" Jhoni Chamorro, Julio Beltran (with the guitar) and Joaquin Oliveros provide musical entertainment after dinner.



The communities gathered first for prayer led by Fr. Ted.

Albert Mantes' Going Home

By Fr. Jose Lucero SDB

On January 19, 2012, the brother of Fr. Jesse Montes was buried at The National Cemetery in Santa Fe, NM.



Fr. Jesse was accompanied by Fr. Joe Farias, sdb, Fr. Jose Lucero, sdb, and his father, Deacon Juan S. Lucero.



Fr. Jesse presided at the ceremony which included favorite family hymns. The ceremony began with the Hymn Amazing Grace sung by Fr. Jose, Deacon Juan and Fr. Joe and concluded with the singing of How Great Thou Art.



Fr. Jesse's sister-in-law, Mary, and her three daughters, Carole, Leslie and Kelly and their families were all present.



The Honor Guard did full Military Honors and presented the American Flag to Albert's widow Mary at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Steve Rael, Fr. Jesse's nephew, gave an eloquent and moving eulogy.

Don Bosco Service Day

By Juan Carlos Montenegro



On January 28, 2012 one hundred young people from 4 different Salesian Communities (St. Dominic Savio Parish, St. John Bosco High School, Salesian High School and Don Bosco Technical

Institute) got together to support the East Los Angeles neighborhood. The day engaged them in varied activities, opportunities to deepen their spirituality through service and building relationships with others and Christ. In the first part of the day the young people cleaned the streets of the neighborhood. Upon return, the youth created an oratory with the children of the community. Before the end of the day, the young people meditated on where they found Christ in their experience. Fr. Tim Ploch, provincial, gave a Good Night for all gathered at the conclusion of this Don Bosco Service Day.

SDB Birthdays

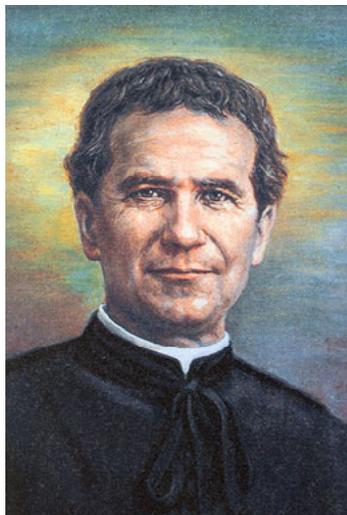
Jerry Bonjean	16
Paul Maniscalco	19
Dave Purdy	20
Pat Barbariol	21
Tom Juarez	22
Mario Rosso	22

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.



Rector Major's 2012 Message to the Youth of the Salesian Youth Movement



January 31, 2012

**Youthful dreamers, sons and
daughters of a father who forever
dreamed**

My beloved children,

Dear young people of the Salesian
Youth Movement,

I am writing to you as a father and friend, through my Ninth Successor. The meeting with you in Madrid, on 17 August, in the huge courtyard at the Salesian Institute, Atocha, remains firmly etched on my mind and in my heart. That was an unforgettable experience emotionally speaking, but especially significant from a Salesian point of view. I enjoyed seeing your sense of responsibility, your pride at being young people committed to living your faith. I admired your desire to make your life an investment in God's plans for you and in the dream you nurture in your hearts...

[RM Message to SYM \(complet text\)](#)

Silence and Word: Path of Evangelization



(ANS – Vatican City) The centrality of the human person in the processes of communication and the balance necessary between the word and silence - these are the themes in the message of the Holy Father for the 46th World Communications Day issued January 24, the liturgical feast of Saint Francis of Sales, patron of journalists.

“Word and silence: learning to communicate is learning to listen and contemplate as well as speak. This is especially important for those engaged in the task of evangelization: both silence and word are essential elements, integral to the Church’s work of communication for the sake of a renewed proclamation of Christ in today’s world.”

-Pope Benedict XVI

“Attention should be paid to the various types of websites, applications and social networks which can help people today to find time for reflection and authentic questioning, as well as making space for silence and occasions for prayer, meditation or sharing of the word of God. In concise phrases, often no longer than a verse from the Bible, profound thoughts can be communicated, as long as those

taking part in the conversation do not neglect to cultivate their own inner lives.”

-Pope Benedict XVI

[Silence and Word \(complete text\)](#)

Called to Make the Word of Truth Shine

On January 26, the Message of Benedict XVI for World Mission Day, which will be celebrated on 21 October 2012 was published: “Called to Make the Word of Truth Shine”. The importance of the missionary proclamation and the sharing of faith are highlighted. The General Councillor for the Missions refers to the Salesian participation in the commitment of the Universal Church.

[Called to Make the Truth Shine](#)

Poverty USA



To promote understanding of the reality and consequences of living at the poverty line, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) produced an updated video on poverty in America. Today, more than 46 million people in America are living below the poverty line — far more than the population of our largest state. This is POVERTY USA. Find out more about it here:

[Living in Poverty USA](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/povertyusa>



Volunteer Recruitment



The Salesian Mission Animation Department was present for the Service Fair at St. John Bosco HS to promote mission opportunities for students.

Vocation

A Workshop for Young Adults, Catechists, Catholic Educators, Ministers to Youth and Young Adults



People wonder: "What is Religious Life?"
 A group of Sisters, Brothers, Monks and Nuns invites you to meet us, and to get some insight into our life...

Sisters, Brothers, Monks and Nuns... February 25, 2012

This workshop is an educational event, NOT recruitment. Of course, if you are interested in religious life...you have some great resources gathered in one room!

Sessions: The History and Theology of Religious Life; Why are the Communities so Different?; Vocation Stories: Why We Joined and Why We stay!

Breakfast and lunch provided!

Provincial Center
 Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
 441 N. Garfield Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640-2901

RSVP! Space is limited... Name, e-mail or phone @ NRVC11S@gmail.com; or 310-426-8148.

\$10 helps us to cover expenses. Pay at the door.

Vocations California

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The day concludes with Mass at 4:00 p.m.



Everybody wonders...Nobody knows!



Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions,

Last November 25-27, 2011 the first meeting of the 30 young missionaries in eight European provinces with their superiors took place in Rome for two days. Their enthusiasm, joy, spirit of faith and commitment were surprising without hiding the challenges they face.

Over the past 10 years about 80 confreres have been sent to strengthen the different provinces in Europe, half of them after the start of the Project Europe in 2008. This is just a drop but a young confrere coming from halfway around the world produces many fruits in an old and monocultural Province: he brings hope and rejuvenates the provincial community. Being close to young people there are also vocational fruits and he helps to be close to many young migrants.

It takes great faith and commitment on the part of all the Salesian Provinces of the world in order to revitalise the Salesian charism in Europe. During the second meeting of the Provincials of Europe in 2008 the Rector Major pointed out that Project Europe is an unparalleled spiritual proposal. As we pray for more missionaries in Europe, let us ask ourselves how we can contribute to this project of the whole congregation .

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Consigliere per le Missioni

What contribution can I make to Project Europe?

At the conclusion of the GC 26 Fr. Chávez explained the *raison d'être* of Project Europe: «Today, more than ever, we become aware that our presence in Europe needs to be re-thought. This consideration as I already said in the address to the Holy Father on the occasion of the Audience he granted to the members of the GC26 - is "aimed at re-dimensioning our Salesian presence for greater impact and effectiveness in this continent. That is, seeking a new form of evangelisation in order to respond to the spiritual and moral needs of these young people, who to us appear as wanderers without guides and without destination."»

It is a question therefore of rejuvenating with Salesian personnel those Provinces most in need to make the Salesian charism more significant and fruitful in today's Europe. I intend to make clear therefore that:

- This is a project of the Congregation ;
- It will involve all the Regions and Provinces in sending personnel ;
- Strengthen the communities, called upon to be intercultural and to make Don Bosco present among the young, especially the poorest, the abandoned and those at risk ;
- The whole process will be entrusted to the coordination of the three Departments for the Mission.

This project will obviously demand structural changes in the communities of the Old Continent. "New wine in new wine-skins". It is not therefore a work of the simple "maintenance of structures", but a new project to express a new presence beside today's young people. We are moving with the heart of Don Bosco, rich in his passion for God and for the young, in order to collaborate in the social construction of a New Europe, so that it may really have "a soul", so that it may find again its strong spiritual and cultural roots, so that at the level of society it may make room for and give equal opportunities to educational and cultural proposals, without discrimination or decisions regarding social exclusion.

Among the priorities I indicate the most important :

- Creating new presences for young people,
- Encouraging dynamic and innovative initiatives ,
- Fostering vocations.

All this should help the Salesians who are working in this context to achieve a way of thinking that is more and more European, strengthening the synergy among Provinces in the different sectors and re-enforcing collaboration at Regional level». *What contribution can I make, then, to Project Europe?*



Participants at the first meeting of the Salesian missionaries in Europe - Pisana, Nov 25-27, 2011

As a missionary I must hand on Don Bosco's charism to local Salesians



During my post noviciate in Nashik, India, I used to attend the monthly 'Mission Day,' and it was on one of those occasions that I discovered my missionary vocation. The various mission videos that I saw, constant prayer and a deep relationship with God were great helps in deepening my missionary vocation.

I am grateful I had the chance to attend the *Course for New Missionaries* in Rome and the pilgrimage to the Salesian holy places in Piedmont. It helped me to value my Salesian missionary vocation on two fronts: the theoretical and the experiential. The aspect that struck me during the many inputs that I heard was the importance of learning the language well as the key for inculturation.

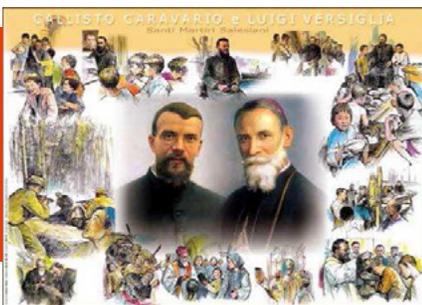
On the experiential level it was the pilgrimage to the Salesian holy places which helped me relive the roots of our Salesian charism and made me more aware that as a missionary I am a bearer of this charism which I must guard, deepen and hand on to the local Salesians in Hungary!

Although there is a lot of work that needs to be done because there are very few Salesians in Hungary, I also realised that as a missionary I must resist the temptation of frenetic activism and take great care of my spiritual, intellectual, emotional formation as well.

I also realised that as a missionary it is important that I strive to inculturate myself patiently and humbly wherever I am sent, be it in India, Hungary or any part of the world so that I can bring Jesus Christ to the people I am sent to and share with them Don Bosco's love for the young through his preventive system of education.



*Cl. De Rossi Raja
Indian, Missionary in Hungary*



February 27, 2012

*A special remembrance in prayer
for all Salesian missionaries
on the feast of our Salesian protomartyrs*



Salesian Missionary Intention

HAITI - For the Journey of rebuilding the Salesian Mission

That the Salesians of Haiti continue with courage the rebuilding of the Salesian Mission

Two years after the terrible earthquake of January 12, 2010 there are already some visible signs of new development in the communities in the capital, Port-au-Prince. However, there is still a long way not only to raise the walls of the houses, but above all to rebuild our mission in the poorest country in the American continent.

