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A Raisin in the Sun cast's members and the marble statue of Don Bosco in the background, Salesian High School in East Los Angeles since 1958.

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The Family Cradle of Life



By Pascual Chávez, SDB

Children are the synthesis of love. The existence of a new life produces something new that enriches the family relationship. Far from being a destabilizing factor, it brings with it a deeper and enriching way of family living, heralding a shared responsibility and a call to consolidate love. Children already in the family also need to welcome joyfully the new life, the fruit of their parents' love.

Children need to be loved. It is in love that they find the strength that makes their life possible. A child needs the family into which it is born to accompany it in its physical growth, but also in its intellectual and spiritual development. Parents have the primary responsibility to educate their offspring, to concern themselves with their support, and ensure the human and Christian "quality" of their development. It is important that they ask themselves what sort of way of life would be right for their children, in a society in which success and failure are measured in economic terms imposed by the needs of arid competition. Not rarely it is precisely in this area that conflicts arise which threaten to undermine fam-

ily harmony. How do you reconcile the rights of the children to their own independent fulfillment, with the duty of the parents to accompany them as they grow to maturity?

One of the most attractive images of the young Don Bosco shows him balancing himself and walking a tight-rope. This is a very suitable image for parents, since being parents is like walking a tight-rope, suspended between heaven and earth, between daily life and one's dreams. It illustrates well the tension and the necessary care needed to avoid falling as the balancing point constantly changes. Parents have to make great efforts to identify just what the *right balance* is, and moment by moment, find it for themselves, for the children and for the family. It is only when the educational balance is right that a well balanced person emerges. Education is a challenge that aims at giving children their own *independence* and their own *identity*. They need to learn how to live *outside* while remaining *within* the family. A mix of well chosen and well measured ingredients are needed: *freedom / limits; trust / checks; the necessary / the superfluous; activity / rest; ties / separation; permissiveness / intransigence*. It is a matter of knowing when it is the right time to support and help, and when it is important that the children go their own way. Each moment is a new one, and what was necessary yesterday, may not be so today. In the field of education *flexibility* is fundamental. Discovering what the children need involves not imposing our will, recognizing the signs they give and resisting the temptation to interfere, to be a know-it-all, or to be protective. All this needs to happen without ever leaving them just to their own devices. They need support and guidance in their lives until they are ready to take full responsibility for themselves.



Margaret Recognized Something Special in John Bosco



By Fr. Arthur Lenti, SDB

The Mother of St. John Bosco, Margaret Bosco, née Occhiena, has been proposed as a candidate for beatification. The diocesan process concluded in April 1996. In this day and age the Church is looking for more “ordinary” Christians (in contrast to bishops, priests, monks, nuns and royalty) to hold up to the faithful as outstanding exemplars of Gospel living.

“Mama” Margaret, as she was affectionately called by her family and all the boys who knew and loved her, is an excellent example of an heroic woman who lived an ordinary life, with its joys and sorrows, to the fullest. She was born in 1788 in the small hamlet of Capriglio less than two miles from where she would settle down and raise a family. She came from a peasant family of 10 children and when she was 24 married a widower named Francis Louis Bosco who, at 27, was left with a 7-year-old son, Anthony. From Francis’ and Margaret’s union came two children, Joseph Louis, born in 1813 and John Melchior (the future St. John Bosco) born on August 16, 1815.

The Bosco family suffered the untimely death of husband and father, Francis, when he succumbed to pneumonia at the age of 32 in 1817. This left Margaret a widow at 29 with three children, Anthony 9, Joseph 4 and John not yet 2. She also had the care of her aged mother-in-law. The Bosco family fortune, such as it was, was wiped out to pay debts, and life was precarious with drought and famine and the economic depression that followed the Napoleonic wars.

The three boys were quite dissimilar. John, at an early age was lively, quick-witted, imaginative, enterprising with a tremendous desire to discover and learn. Joseph was quiet and more of a follower. Anthony, their half-

brother, felt himself a stranger in the home. He had an awareness that his task as Francis’ eldest son was to be the leader, protector and provider for the family. But he appears to have been a “disturbed” child. Yet, as he grew to adulthood, he developed a commitment to the land. It was his understanding that the whole family would work the land with all hands pitching in. John’s penchant for learning and the encouragement of Margaret created an on-going tension within the family for some years until Anthony could legally separate himself and set up his own family and farm.

The scenario is a familiar one today. One could say that the Bosco family was “dysfunctional.” John grew up in poverty, in a single-parent family. It is with this set of circumstances

that Mama Margaret’s holiness shines out. With great sacrifices she kept the family from totally rupturing by offering love and counsel to Anthony, and by sending John off to live and work at a neighboring farm to ease the tension between him and Anthony. Many are the examples of Margaret’s spirituality and devotion, her character and action, her love and service of God.

But it was as Christian mother and educator that she shone. Her major concern was that her children, all three of them, grew religiously, knew their catechism, attended church and received the sacraments. She devoted her best efforts to their development as persons. She sought to instill a moral character and inner spirituality that would prepare them to deal with life. She gave her sons a sense of God’s presence

and a trust in God’s loving providence; honesty and integrity coupled with love of hard work and fidelity to duty; sensibility to other people’s need expressed in concrete acts of



Mama Margaret accompanies Don Bosco to Turin as “Mama” for the boys of the Oratory on November 3, 1846.

service; Christian optimism and a lively hope for God's ultimate reward.

Margaret's own religious and moral upbringing were of the strictest tradition and found reinforcement from the severe style of parent-child relationships characteristic of Piedmontese families. These were tempered by her constant appeal to reason and religion with lots of personal love and care. Her success may be attributed to her wisdom and enlightened educational style which offset any constraining traditional severity.

Margaret recognized something special in John and realized that God was calling him to serve in a special way. John gathered his peers for shows like juggling, acrobatics and magic, so he could teach them the catechism. She made great sacrifices to get him the schooling he needed to further his vocation. We will never really know what it cost her to get him through primary and secondary school. As he got older he was able to take on the burden of his own education, and we know what that entailed.

After John's ordination to the priesthood and after he began gathering abandoned and poor boys around him, he realized that they still needed a mother's touch—and who else could fill the role but his own dear mother, Margaret?. She was instrumental, not only in training John but also in fostering the famous "family spirit" so characteristic of Don Bosco's Oratory and, indeed, all Salesian ministries.

The question must be asked: Would John Bosco have been Don Bosco, the father and educator of countless young people, without his mother's teaching, example, inspiration and support? This is why the Church and the Salesian Family wish to offer her as an example to all mothers—not because she was the mother of a saint, but because she herself was a saintly Christian mother.

Don Bosco Associates Reception.



Guests at the Reception (L-R), Fr. Ralph Murphy, SDB, Nicholas Andrade, Edward Gaffaney and Br. Michael Touchstone, SDB.

The Don Bosco Associates Christmas Reception

By Bob Merjano

On Wednesday, December 7, 2005, members of the Don Bosco Associates gathered to celebrate the Christmas Season. More than 30 guests braved the wet winter weather to attend this year's event. Fortunately, they were able to warm themselves by the fireplace at The Century Club of California—the venue for the DBA Christmas Reception.

Members of the Salesian Provincial Office joined old friends reunited by the Christmas event. Stories of Salesian high schools, parishes, Boys' & Girls' Clubs, and summer camps filled the evening. The collective experiences of those inspired by St. John Bosco added a warm camaraderie to the occasion.

During his remarks, Fr. David Purdy, Provincial of the Western Province, told guests of all the recent accomplishments of the Salesians in the West. In addition, Fr. David reminded the Associates how their generous gifts support the Salesian. Donors are true collaborators in the Salesian ministries.

Fr. David continued by lightheartedly noting that it had been a long time since the Associates gathered in celebration, and that one goal for the coming year was to increase the frequency of these meetings.

A highlight of the evening was the beautiful singing of the SS. Peter & Paul School Choir directed by Christine Johnson. The students' rendition of numerous Christmas carols including *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World* put everyone in the Christmas spirit. The students concluded their performance with a song familiar to everyone in the Salesian Family—*Don Bosco Returns*. It was wonderful to see everyone join in for this poignant composition.

The Don Bosco Associates are donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Provincial's Fund of the Salesian Society. The Provincial directs the proceeds of the fund to areas where the Province is most in need. As stewards of the Province, the members of the Associates gather at these events to share in the spirit of St. John Bosco and learn of the progress of the numerous projects of the Province.

The next gathering of the Don Bosco Associates will be at a luncheon on Thursday, April 27, 2006. For more information about the Don Bosco Associates, please contact Bob Merjano in our Development office at (415) 441-7144.

St. Francis de Sales, Patron of Writers and Journalists

By Leslie Satter

Each year the Church honors the saint Don Bosco chose to be our model in kindness and patient communication of the Gentle Christ's message, especially to young people. This year the Salesian International Agency of Information, (ANS), published a communication from Fr. Tarcisio Scaramussa, General Counselor for Social Communication, Rome, regarding this wonderful "jewel," St. Francis de Sales. Here are some excerpts of that letter, which both inform and inspire us.

"A jewel is always precious. With this simple expression, used by Paul VI in the Apostolic Letter *Jewel of Savoy*, of January 29, 1967, we want to remember St. Francis de Sales, (1567-1622), and pay our respects to journalists and writers on the day of their holy patron.

St. Francis lived at a time characterized by humanism and religious conflict... He believed that frank and open discussion, with respect for those who thought differently, was the way gradually to overcome suspicion and animosity, to create sympathy and to foster a climate of openness for the proclamation of Jesus Christ and to contribute to the building of a peaceful society.

"He undertook various enterprises along these lines. We may recall... his active participation in debates about the great issues of the time, making use of the contemporary means of communication: sermons, conferences, speeches,

printed leaflets that were distributed door to door and fixed on walls, the publication of books, and above all, a very large number of personal letters. One

ity, inviting all of them to pursue the way of holiness lived in their everyday circumstances.



St. Francis de Sales

"The gentleness which characterized him, did not keep him away from the serious problems of his time. In fact with courage and tenacity he faced up to opposition and hostility. With perceptive serenity, and at the same time with firmness, he knew how to deal with polemical controversies between Protestants and Catholics, political and ecclesiastical questions, theological disputes and the divisions between the Christians of his time.

"The current climate in society regarding information is different from that of St. Francis de Sales, perhaps more challenging in view of the pluralism, the opportunities and competition. That does not prevent us from following his example and adopting his style. He still glistens – if we wish to retain the image used by Paul VI – offering us incentives to achieve in our day his success in communication.

can only imagine what he would have done if he had had at his disposal today's technology.

"Thanks to his gifts as an orator and writer, St. Francis succeeded in having a great impact on public opinion, creating a positive atmosphere, which contributed to understanding and peace. He broke new ground in involving the la-

"On May 28, 2006, the Pope will present to us for the 40th World Communications Day, the theme *The Media: A Network for Communication, Communion and Cooperation*.

"St. Francis de Sales, who was a man of unity, ... offers us a practical example of commitment to the Church..."

Is My Child Lazy?

By David Franklin



David Franklin converses informally with students at Salesian High School in Richmond, CA.

I've been hearing it too often lately: parents describe their teenager to me today as "lazy."

"Lazy" implies individuals who don't care about the consequences of his actions. But in ten years of counseling teens, I've NEVER encountered one who is lazy. I have, however, met many who are DEPRESSED.

Depression has many faces. Some people become teary and sad. Others, like teens, often become numb. Instead of looking "down", they lack energy and concentration; they lack focus and excitement; they appear lazy.

Consider Tim, a 16-year-old who goes from a B average to a D and F average. He frequently loses homework and misses assignments. He IS trying and you know he has the ability to do the work, but unknown to everyone, his depression gets in the way.

Frustrated teachers and parents assume he isn't trying so they blame HIM for the problem. But his lack of motivation and concentration are not part of his nature. They're a consequence of his depression. Pressured by adults to solve something he can't understand, his self-esteem crumbles and an adolescent who was already feeling down now feels worse.

So what can you do if you believe your child is struggling? Ask yourself whether your child has had a sudden change in sleeping patterns, eating patterns or in the ability to concentrate. Are they angry all the time or using drugs? If so, he or she may be depressed.

Ask them how they are feeling. If they are down, talk about it with them. If they're still having difficulty coping, you may want to talk to their pediatrician or get the help of a therapist through your health plan or in the community.

This experience may be difficult for your family, but success in it will not only help your child be better equipped to succeed in school and in life, it also may be one of the most important learning experiences you and your child will ever share.

David Franklin has been the Personal Counselor at Salesian High School for ten years and is also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Lafayette, California, specializing in adolescent issues. He is married and the father of two sons. Past adventures include walking across the United States (in 1990) and being a Professional Musician. He can be contacted at David@eastbaypsychotherapy.com.



Our Salesian Family: Dancing between Happiness and Sorrow

By Fr. Jesse Montes, SDB



A Raisin in the Sun cast: (L-R) Simone Hamilton (Best Actor, ULV), Ayesha Lee, Syeda Lee, Calvin King, Ian Lawrence, Drew Watkins, and Fr. Jesse Montes, SDB.

Scheduled to participate in the University of La Verne's drama competition, the Salesian High School Theatre Arts Club, Richmond set off on its four hundred mile trek from northern to southern California. It was Tuesday after school. The vanload of actors included six cast members of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* and director, Fr. Jesse Montes. When they arrived at the venue on Wednesday, the thespians had picked up Fr. Christian Woerz, the province director of vocations, and Mr. Manuel Galvan, longtime cooperator and friend. Both of them had come to support the troupe. After the presentation of a fifteen minute excerpt, a tumultuous round of applause resounded in ULV's theater-in-the-round. At awards time, Simone Hamilton, who plays Lena, the matriarch of the Younger family, brought home a Best Actor trophy.

The following day, Wednesday, the cast visited the three Salesian high schools in

the Los Angeles area. First in line was Don Bosco Technical Institute in Rosemead. The performers were in awe after touring the many technical shops that make up this world class school. No wonder they had heard that on a regular basis education departments from as far away as Asia, Europe and Russia come to DBTI to study possibilities of duplicating its form in their own countries. The visitors were a bit envious of the wealth of knowledge that the Bosco students receive in their academic as well as in their technical spheres.

St. John Bosco High School was next on the list. The campus is so expansive that every sport has its own well equipped facility. The gym was built in the fifties is still impressive in its futuristic design. The one thousand plus students that study here keep an impressively clean and well kept campus. The thespians immediately headed for the performing and fine arts



Some cast members with arts patron, Fr. Christian Woerz, SDB, province vocation director.



Cast of RITS after their award-winning performance, onstage at the University of La Verne drama competition.



Salesian South's newest addition, artificial turf hosting sincere patter among visitors and hosts.



Salesian students in Northern and Southern California welcome each other.



building and the little theater. The beginning band was practicing away, while the art students were watching an instructional film. The students had time to meet and talk for a few minutes. They immediately connected with welcoming hosts in mutual Salesian spirit.

It was time to move on to East Los Angeles: Salesian High School South. Again the students were quite friendly. The school boasts of a new seven million dollar gym and a new football stadium named after Br. Tom Keegan. Bro. Tom, a much beloved Salesian Brother, knew and remembered every student he met by name, his family, and even his extended family. Years later, when alumni would visit the school, Br. Tom even remembered what year they had graduated. As had been the case in the other two schools, these host students reflected the family spirit that Don Bosco always wanted his schools to have. They made the visitors feel at home. They conducted a short tour of the new facilities to the slight envy of the visiting group.

It was time to leave and head back home. After a night's rest the students were back in school on the following Friday morning. However, when announcements were made that morning a somber President of the school, Fr. Nicholas Reina, announced that a cheerleader, Jenny Lethahtham, had been killed in an automobile accident the previous night. The school immediately went into mourning. The luster of winning at the ULV festival was obscured and continued to be obscured a few days after the tragedy. Jenny was a very well liked young lady. To lose such a person so tragically left the cast in tears. After the announcement the library was immediately turned into a counseling area. Counselors from schools throughout the Bay area offered their services. The Diocese of Oakland immediately faxed or e-mailed all of its schools. Very supportive missives began to pour in. The administration and the faculty was transformed into a well-received arm of support for the students.

The Basketball rally which was supposed to cap the day evolved into a prayer ser-

vice for Jenny. Many tears were shed and many beautiful and supportive talks were proffered to the entire student body.

Getting together for practice the next day the cast reminisced about the wonderful trip they had experienced and the family spirit they had witnessed at the schools. But they also realized that family spirit does not always remain in a positive Pollyana state. Life is also filled with sad and at times even devastating events. But that is when the Salesian family spirit truly kicks in. The support, the love, the compassion that a family produces will carry it to the next happy moments after times of sadness and trial.

Don Bosco was able to weather so many downfalls in his life with his positive preventive measures. If we follow his spirit which is in fact the spirit of Christ with a Salesian flavor, we can and will weather our darkest moments. And one day, we will realize that we shall see each other again. In the meantime the spirit of Don Bosco lives in our lives.



Jenny Selitham, 16 year-old, tenth grade student, and cheerleader, killed in the tragic accident.



Tearful, teacher-coach Mr. Tom Bauer consoles daughter, Haylee, the cheerleader's team "mascot."



Salesian Cheerleaders making poster and decorations to place around a make-shift memorial altar which was placed in the school's foyer.

Celebrate Family! Be Home for Others!

By Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB

2006 is the Year of the Dog!
(according to the lunar calendar)
2006 is the Year of the Mobile Malware (Virus)!
(according to CNET News.com)
2006 is the Year of Study Abroad!
(according to the United States Senate)
2006 is the Year of Mozart!
(according to the Austrians)
2006 is the Year of Sigmund Freud!
(according to Medical News Today)

To the worldwide Salesian Family 2006
is the Year of the Family!

It has been a long-standing tradition that the Salesian Family, on an annual basis, is given a theme for the year. The theme for 2006, proposed by Fr. Pascual Chávez, the 9th successor of Don Bosco as the head of the Salesian Congregation, is “**Ensure that special attention be given to the family, the cradle of life and love, where one first learns how to become human.**” The focus of this theme is the family. The attention given to family is not only to the Salesian Family in the local communities and ministries, but especially to the formation and celebration of families where each and everyone comes from, where the young people we are called to serve reflect their parents’ approach to life.

This theme is obviously not new. As a matter of fact, in *Renewing the Vision*, the United States National Conference of Catholic Bishops’ framework for Catholic Youth Minis-

try, one of the themes of a comprehensive vision of youth ministry is *family friendly*. It states that the home is the Domestic Church, the “first and vital cell of society,” the primary educators of faith and virtues. It further states that the family has the mission to “guard, reveal, and communicate love;” that the family is the central place where the community of life and love is celebrated.

To integrate and contextualize this theme into our community and ministerial lives the Salesian Province Community of San Francisco proposes a theme for the ministerial year 2006-2007: **Celebrate Family! Be Home for Others!** This is based on the reflection of the province youth ministry team and youth ministry leaders in the province on the proposed theme from Fr. Pascual Chávez. It also takes into account the school calendar, the cycle that most local communities and ministries in the United States follow. The ministry year begins in July and ends in June the following calendar year.

Celebrate Family! Be Home for Others! As a province community, and in our local communities, we are called to celebrate what is right with our world and with our family life. We are called to focus on one of the dimensions of the Salesian oratory model: HOME. This dimension invites us and challenges us to be welcoming and open to all members of the Salesian Family, especially young people and their families. It also challenges us to network and to collaborate in finding ways to form and educate families, the cradle of life and love for all.



Sr. Carmen Botello and Fr. Chris Woerz help Linus speak to the group.



The liturgy joins everyone in prayer for the Salesian Family.

Could God Be Calling Me?

By Fr. Christian H. Woerz, SDB



Fr. Chris provides the group with much food for thought.

YES! God calls each of us to life, to wholeness, and to service. Through our Baptism the Lord calls us to Christian life and love. This call is a daily affair. Our task each day throughout our lives at every stage is to understand what God wants from me today. Children are to learn the basics of good behavior, socialization and personal responsibility. The young adult is to discern what path God wants him or her to follow in life. This discernment process continues all the way through our senior years. Our prayer, “Lord, what do you want from me today?”

The Lord calls most people to marriage and family. For the Christian young adult this is a very important decision. Choosing to marry is not just a romantic response, but also a very specific process that includes prayer, investigation, involvement, and experience. Parents use discernment skills when advising their children. Professionals use discernment to make business decisions. Everyone uses discernment skills.

In this article I am concerned with the discernment process as applied by young adults when trying to determine the call to religious life. A religious

vocation follows the same process one uses in making any life decision.

The Discernment Process:

PRAY: Spend a few moments each day in thoughtful conversation with the Lord. Ask the Lord, “Lord, what do you want me to do with my life?” Use the same prayer after Communion at Mass.

INVESTIGATE: Talk to people whose opinion you respect. Read. Check out the web. If you are thinking of a religious vocation, talk to a Brother, Sister or Priest. Ask questions. Talk to a vocation director.

GET INVOLVED: A great way to understand if you are called to church ministry and community life is to get involved in ministry by volunteering. The Church needs the energy of dedicated young people. This is a “learn by doing” process.

EXPERIENCE: Visit religious communities, your parish, or a seminary. See how they live and work. Seminaries and religious communities are always ready to host people interested in spending a few days with the community to see first hand the life and ministry of a Sister, Brother or Priest.

DECIDE: The Church needs dedicated Sisters, Brothers and Priests to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You can answer that call. After prayer, investigation, involvement and experience go with your heart. The bottom line question is, “Can I see myself as a religious, a church minister? If the answer is yes, it is time to act. It is time to talk to a vocation director.

It is a simple process, *pray, investigate, get involved, experience and decide.* For more information link on to www.salesianym.org.

Recently the Salesians sponsored a discernment event, *Don Bosco Discernment Day (DBDD)*. The DBDD was held in Northern California at Salesian High School and in Southern California at St. Joseph Salesian Youth Renewal Center. Several Salesian Sisters, Brothers and Priests spent a day with 24 young adults. The young adults ranged in age from 17 to a not so young 44 years of age. There was a lot of interaction between the participants and the Salesians. A highlight of the day was the time spent in sharing vocation stories. Especially lively were the informal times at lunch and dinner.



By Fr. Ralph Murphy, SDB



Fr. Adriano Bregolin Torch Bearer for 2066 Winter Olympics in Turin, Vicar of the Salesian Rector Major, received the Olympic Torch at Valdocco, the cradle of the Salesian Congregation.



The Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chávez welcomed on his arrival at the airport by a group of youngsters from the 18 Salesian Schools in Hong Kong and Macau.

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Bandit Activity Forces Fr. Charles to leave the Provincial House.

The Superior of the Salesian Vice Province of Haiti, Fr. Jacques Charles, has been forced to leave the provincial house and find refuge in the St. Dominic Savio house in Petion-Ville not too far from Port-Au-Prince. The emergency situation occurred in early January 2006 when a group of delinquents from Cite Soleil invaded the area where the headquarters of the vice province is located, forcing many inhabitants to leave their homes to escape the shooting, kidnapping and other acts of violence. The provincial house staff was evacuated with only three Salesians remaining.

Fr. Adriano Bregolin Torch Bearer for 2066 Winter Olympics in Turin.

On February 9 Fr. Bregolin, Vicar of the Salesian Rector Major, received the Olympic Torch at Valdocco, the cradle of the Salesian Congregation, and carried it to the sanctuary of the Consolata, where Don Bosco often went to honor Mary. The idea came from a suggestion of a Turin City Councilor, Dr. Gavino, who wanted to highlight the links between the Piedmontese city and the Salesians.

Nigeria. New Post-novitiate and English language study center.

Don Bosco House went into operation for the first time in early October, 2005.

It is the study center of the English language West African Vice province which includes the Mission of Sierra Leone, formerly under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Province of the Salesians. It began with 12 first year students of philosophy but has accommodations for an eventual 42 students. An adjacent Youth Center serves the predominately Muslim population of the surrounding area.

Baku, Azerbaijan. First Salesian Church.

The foundation stone of a Catholic Church was laid on September 11, 2005 in the city of Baku. Presiding at the ceremony was Cardinal Crescenio Sepe, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Present also

were representatives of the Government of Azerbaijan, of the Orthodox Church, of the Jewish community and of the Muslim community, as well as a large number of the faithful. The parish, staffed by 5 Salesian priests and 2 brothers, with 3 volunteers is the first Catholic Church in the city.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia. AIDS Prevention.

The Don Bosco Center of Phnom Penh has organized for the past four years a week dedicated to the prevention of AIDS/HIV. The initiative, called “Funday” is held each year and has as its objective to sensitize people to this enormous modern problem, to proclaim that life is precious. The director of the Don Bosco Center is Fr. Leo Ochoa who is also the director of the “Project for orphans of AIDS and children afflicted with AIDS.” In the past year he has influenced 850 orphans.

Chimpay, Argentina. 100th Anniversary of the Death of Ceferino Namuncura.

Celebrations are scheduled in his hometown for the whole of 2005 and 2006 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of 19 year old Zeferino Namuncura, which took place on May



Manu Jabra, Pakistan - Fr Peter Zago (center) and some students from Lahaore and Quetta distribute food and clothing to families in the refugee camp in Manu Jabra.

11, 1905 in the Fatebenefratelli hospital in Rome. As he grew up with the Salesians missionaries in Argentina, he was much impressed with the biography of Dominic Savio written by Don Bosco. After his 1989 First Communion he impressed everyone with his devotion to the Eucharist. He traveled with Bishop Cagliari to Turin in 1904, and

on September 27 he had the special blessing of a private audience with Pope Pius X. Shortly afterwards he took sick and died on May 11. On August 27 and 28th, 2005, Chimpay, an area of 4 thousand people played host to some 35 thousand gathered to pay tribute to Ceferino.



Bui Chu, Vietnam – Episcopal ordination of Mgr. Peter Van De (on the left), bishop of the diocese of Bui Chu (Hanoi) at which 18 Vietnamese bishops, 300 priests and 5,000 faithful took part.



Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Italy - Fr. Vaclav Klement, Councilor for the East Asia-Oceania Region and Fr. Michael Chang Rector of the Kwangju College (South Korea) with some of the staff belonging to the ‘Mamma Margaret’ group at the Salesian School.

Sierra Leone, Africa. By Fr. Al Mengon, SDB

Very few simple events in our life are able to match the fascination of the arrival of a personal letter. It is hand delivered at your front door with a colorful commemorative stamp, with your name and address carefully written by a hand that cared for you. Not even the modern and ever fascinating contraption known as electronic mail could match such fascination. Pope Benedict XVI did just that when he sent his first encyclical letter to all the people that God loves. The letter begins with a phrase from the First Letter of John: "God is Love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him." In the body of the letter the Pope states that the church must practice love through works of charity and attend to people's sufferings and needs. The personal involvement of the Salesians with the poor and needy in the Salesian Mission in Sierra Leone, is but a tiny piece of the big mosaic of the church's charitable activities throughout the world.



The newly dedicated church of St. Ann at the Youngro village has quickly become the meeting place for the children of the village.



Door to door selling is one of the most employed forms of fund generating activities; it is the typical after school job reserved to young ladies.



A very important after school activity is that of fetching water for the household needs. This is the "St. Ann" water well financed by the Salesians to serve the families of the nearby village of Youngro.



Polio still makes many victims in Sierra Leone. James Bangura is suffering from a severe form of polio. In spite of his disability, James maintains a happy disposition, attends school regularly and never misses Sunday Mass.

Reader's Survey

We want your opinion! We are asking for your help to make the *Salesian Bulletin* better. In return for your opinions, you will be eligible to win a limited edition St. John Bosco Medallion.

I would enjoy articles about (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Essays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Jubilarians |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Salesian News | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formation and Seminary | <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News about Salesians | <input type="checkbox"/> School News |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Province History | <input type="checkbox"/> Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Instructions about Church Documents | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Column by Fr. Chávez, Rector Major | |

Articles I enjoyed in this or recent issues are:

Articles that I did not read or were not interesting to me were:

Additional comments:

Please return to: Salesian Society
 Attn: Bulletin Survey
 1100 Franklin Street
 San Francisco, CA 94109
 Fax Reply to (415) 563-5394

People who respond prior to May 1, 2006 will be entered into a drawing. Twenty-Five names will be drawn to receive a beautiful St. John Bosco Medallion. Drawing will be held on May 12, 2006.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Thank you!

The Don Bosco Sacred Heart Association

Saint John Bosco established the Sacred Heart Association in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome. Enrolled members, living and deceased, have one daily mass offered for them in perpetuity. Family membership includes husband, wife, and all children both living and deceased. The Sacred Heart Association is open to Catholics and non-Catholics.

The living enrollee or the family of the deceased is sent a beautiful gold-embossed, four-color certificate. The certificate comes as a richly engraved, gold-on-red gift card tastefully mounted in an elegant soft leatherette folder. Both Gift Card and folder have a gold-embossed cover with appropriate wording for a variety of occasions.

Person enrolled: _____
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 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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 Address: _____
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Upon receipt of request, the card or folder will be sent to person indicated. Payment can be made by cash, credit card or check. Checks should be made payable to the *Salesian Society*, and sent to the address below.

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The portion of your offering after costs is used for the education of priests and brothers of the Western Province.

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