

# SALESIAN BULLETIN

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# Contents



### 3. The Family Cradle of Life

Fr. Pascual Chávez, SDB, reflects on the strenna for 2006.

### 4. Don Bosco Associates' Spring Luncheon

Bob Merjano updates us on the activities of the Don Bosco Associates.



### 5-6-7. Don Bosco's Salesian Family

Fr. Arthur Lenti, SDB.

### 8-9. Ordinations

Fr. Thomas Prendiville, SDB

### 10. An Important Message from Fr. David, SDB



### 11-12. A Letter of Gratitude

Jerry Waite writes to Bob Merjano, Salesian Director of Development, expressing his gratitude to the Salesians and Don Bosco Tech.



### 13-14-15. Around the World

Fr. Ralph Murphy, SDB



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The newly ordained Fr. Chinh Nguyen and Deacon Tho Bui  
rejoice in the front of the shrine to  
Our Lady of LaVang, Stockton, Calif.

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# The Family Cradle of Life

By Fr. Pascual Chávez, SDB

*One of the most important things for the family's support is finding other people with plenty of experience. A family needs to grow up with a lot of positive encouragement. Good friends are necessary to live better.*

One thing absolutely necessary in life is *support from society*. Man was created for company. As we read in Genesis: "It is not good for man to be alone." God is Trinity, that is *communion, Love*. Jesus called the Twelve and he founded the Church. Parents should always help their children to have good friends, and the family itself should do the same. In all friendship there is a real meeting of minds, after which things are never the same again. Parents who have had the experience of genuine and sincere friendship can teach their children what having friends really means. It is sad when parents never invite friends to the house: in this way a window on the world remains closed, and for parents like this it is difficult, if not impossible, to understand what an important gift in life friendship can be. True friendship opens the way to embark on an adventure, to broaden one's horizons and to make a commitment. Perhaps it is for this reason that nearly all adolescents say that for them friendship is the more important thing. Since it is in friendship that we feel stronger, thanks to the sense of security and the self confidence that comes from the trust we experience with someone we respect, in whom we can confide everything, even the things we are not proud of, knowing that we will be accepted with understanding.

Friends are important. Popular wisdom has always made the point clearly and simply: "Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are." Children are influenced by their friends, their circle, their "gang." According to some recent studies, while the influence of heredity is not denied, the personality of children is influenced mainly by their peers, who shape the behavior and the choices made far more than their mother and father's teaching does. It will be his companions/friends (playmates or schoolmates or neighbours) who determine the child's way of talking and behaving, making him weak and insecure when he feels rejected because he does not go by the rules of the group, even to the extent of giving up his studies. It may seem extreme, but some parents find this really worrying. Peer pressure from companions and

friends is very powerful. In a group, the quietest youngster in the world can allow himself to be caught up in activities that no one would ever have thought possible. Choosing friends is never easy and it is never without its consequences: it can give rise to disappointments, to being let down, to suffering. On this account parents need to act with prudence and tact in this area.

The issue of friends is important especially for the children. "Why are his friends more important than his family?". No matter how good and understanding parents are, a mother calm and even tempered, a father affectionate and tolerant, detachment on the part of the adolescent seems obligatory and inevitable, at least to some extent. A certain break is part of the normal development of family life. Starting with puberty, the priorities of the children emerge: "Friends first of all!" And the family in the second place. In a friendly or in an aggressive way, the adolescent begins to create a distance from his parents and to discover "life outside." There is no need to get alarmed: after all the same thing happened to the parents, and it just goes to show that friends are not only useful but essential. With friends one begins to love someone outside the family, to respect other views, to discover other loyalties. It's a necessary apprenticeship that doesn't finish with adolescence but continues throughout life. Friends bring new ideas into the family circle and make it take a fresh look at its own, to find new ways of responding to new challenges, to examine its own and other people's points of view. They are the source of knowledge, occasions for discussion, for a new approach, for transferring one's interests outside the family, in order to discover and to take on board other people's difficulties and problems. Friendship, in other words, brings something valuable, teaching respect and tolerance and satisfies the need for encouragement and support that everyone feels and seeks. Friends are not a way of running away from one's responsibilities, but on the contrary lead us to look at things squarely and face up to them with all the effort required.



# Don Bosco Associates Spring Luncheon

By Bob Merjano

The weather was sunny, warm, and pleasant in San Francisco—surely a good sign for the Don Bosco Associates Spring Luncheon held recently.

The Associates were very enthusiastic as old friendships were renewed and new friendships were made. Everyone was delighted to hear that Salesian schools in the Province continue to experience growth in applications. Much of this growth can be attributed to providing an excellent education in a friendly and safe Christian environment.

On display during the luncheon was artwork from students at St. Francis High School in Watsonville. Heidi Gottfried, the Fine Arts teacher at St. Francis, assembled a wonderful collection of student art. Guests admired the quality of the work, and marveled at the artistic development of each student. The colorful pieces provided a beautiful focus for the gathering.

Fr. David Purdy, Provincial of the Western Province, thanked those who attended the luncheon and spoke of the work of the Salesians in the Province. He concluded his remarks by asking that the Associates and all those who have been inspired by the spirit of John Bosco to share that inspiration with their friends and family. Only by sharing the message of St. John Bosco can the Salesians continue their work of helping the young and the poor.

The Associates contribute to the Provincial's Annual Fund. The proceeds from this fund are then directed to the ministries and programs in the province that are most in need. In recognition of their support, the Provincial meets with the Associates throughout the year in order to tell them about the work of the Province and to thank them for their generosity. The Don Bosco Associates are scheduled to meet again in the fall of this year.

For further information, please contact Bob Merjano at (415) 441-7144.



*Bob Merjano and Fr. David Purdy, SDB, greet Jack and Bernice De Mercurio*



*Elaine Walsh and Flora Vetari*



*Lillian and Ivan Dei Rossi with Winifred Walsh*

# DON BOSCO'S SALESIAN FAMILY

By Fr. Arthur Lenti, SDB

## General Description and Inspiration

The Salesian Family has its origin Don Bosco's zeal and pastoral charity, for it was he himself that conceived, willed and launched it in the service of the young and of common people. In this undertaking he was motivated by three radical perceptions. (1) Helping young people at risk, or otherwise in need, requires the united effort of many "workers" able to bring to the task their varied qualities and skills in collaboration. (2) Such dedicated persons may be found "everywhere"—that is, in a variety of contexts and situations in society and Church. (3) To be effective in their endeavor, these dedicated people must unite rather than "go at it alone"—that is, they must share the same ideal, the same spirit and the same methods, in close collaboration and mutual support.

## Family Identity Recovered and Clarified

The experience of over a century, culminating in the historic event of the Second Vatican Council, the subsequent renewal of religious societies and ecclesial movements, the Special General Chapter of the Salesian Society and the thoroughgoing reflection associated with it—all these developments have led to a recovery and reapplication of the original inspiration and understandings of the Founder. The result has been an updated, and expanded Salesian Family—a new creation for a new world and a new Church, but retaining the essential character of a *family*.

The term *family* indicates the bond existing between the various groups, though it may be specified in different ways. It is not merely a bond of friendship or a social relationship. The family model, with the family relationships it suggests, is really a metaphor for an internal and charismatic communion, whose external expression and social visage is that "*of a vast movement of persons who in different ways work for the salvation of the young.*" [Const. of the Sal. Soc., 5]

## Different Ways of Working for the Salvation for the Young and Different Ways of Belonging to the Family in the Same Salesian Spirit.

The members of the Salesian Family live and work in a *common spirit* and by certain *specific and original characteristics*

that justify official recognition for membership. What is recognized in the prospective members is the call to participate in Don Bosco's mission (the salvation of young people) out of specifically different vocations and with diverse pastoral initiatives. Membership expresses itself at different levels:

(1) Of the twenty-three groups officially recognized as belonging to the Salesian Family (as of 2005), three hold a privileged position in it, because they owe their existence to Don Bosco himself, having received their "Rule of Life" directly from him. They are: the *Society of St. Francis de Sales* (1859), the *Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians* (1872) and the *Association of Salesian Cooperators* (1876). For them "being Salesian" is a *vocation*, because the Holy Spirit inspired them to seek Christian holiness through participation in the Salesian mission. These groups, founded by Don Bosco and constituted as the direct heirs of his work, are the primary co-responsible collaborators for the implementation of the Salesian mission in the Church and in the world. They are therefore the foundation and point of reference for all the other groups with respect to spirit, mission and method in education and pastoral ministry.

(2) A second level of membership is that of the various groups that came into existence at a later date, after Don Bosco, but still through the creative force of the Salesian charism. Such are, for example, the *Women Volunteers of Don Bosco* and other institutes, religious or secular, particularly those founded by Salesians. These dedicated persons choose to live out their vocation in a Salesian way, thus enriching the Family with particular charismatic expressions.

(3) A third level, which comes under the heading *particular titles to membership*, though of wider extension than the levels previously mentioned, is equally bound in an objective manner to the vitality of the spiritual legacy of Don Bosco. In this category, by the title of education, stand the past pupils (alumni and alumnae) of Salesian institutions, when they maintain concrete bonds of communion ranging from general support to personal involvement in the Salesian mission. To this category belong also, by a particular title, the numerous laymen and laywomen involved in the ministry of education and administration in Salesian schools.

(4) A last wide-ranging group, more tenuously but in some way still connected with the Family is that of the numerous *Friends of Don Bosco*, such as are the young people in Salesian schools and their parents, volunteers and temporary helpers, etc.

### **Guidelines Adopted for the Recognition of Membership in the Salesian Family**

The title to membership of a group is specified by the Salesian Rector Major when, as Don Bosco's successor, he grants official recognition in response to a petition submitted by the group. This recognition is granted only after a careful examination of the group's official documents as well as its practical involvement in ministry.

But membership in the Salesian Family is not primarily a juridical title, but rather an event that has to do with "vocation," that is, with the group's sharing in Don Bosco's charism, his spirit and mission.

Guidelines for such a determination were first worked out in 1973 on the basis of the Salesian Special General Chapter. But it was Fr. Egidio Viganò in consultation with representatives of groups already associated that on January 31, 1981 articulated the basic vocational values required for membership and proposed appropriate guidelines. These guidelines embodying the desired vocational values may be summarized as follows: [*Acts of the General Council #304* (April-June 1982), pp. 61-62]

(1) *Salesian Vocation* — When the group shares the Salesian spirit and mission in some significant aspect of its spiritual and apostolic experience, and looks to Don Bosco as model and master;

(2) *Participation in the Salesian mission on behalf of the young and the common people* — When the institute's special purpose includes all or some of the purposes of the Salesian mission (such as evangelization, catechesis, promotion of young people, spreading Christian culture among the common people, involvement in missionary work);

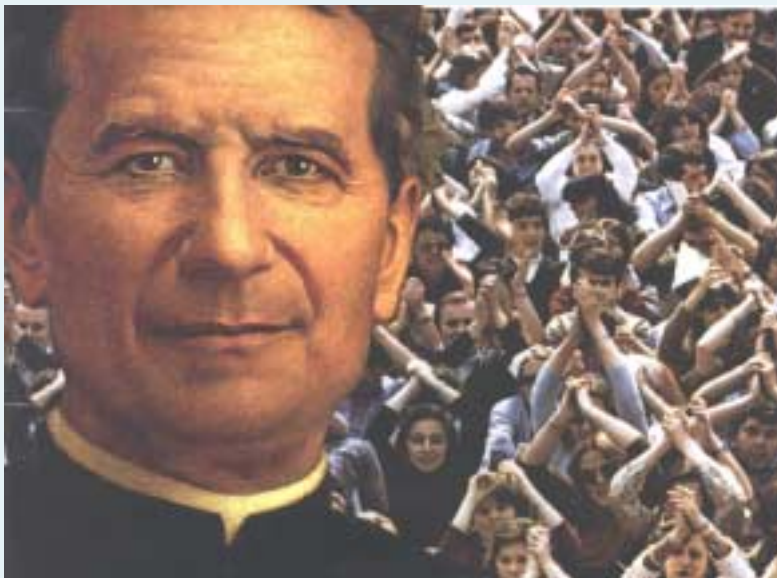
(3) *Sharing the Salesian spirit and method in education and ministry* — When the group lives and works with Don Bosco's

educational method, in an atmosphere of pastoral charity, family spirit, optimism, simple life-related prayer, sacramental life, Marian devotion;

(4) *Gospel way of life* — When the group has adopted a life style inspired by the spirit of the evangelical counsels (vows, promises or other forms of commitment) lived in a Salesian spirit after the example of St. John Bosco and other Salesian saints;

(5) *Sharing the life of the Family as brothers and sisters* — If a group, while retaining its own autonomy and specific character, can offer its diversity and varied experience for a strengthening of the family bond, under the Salesian Rector

Major as successor of Don Bosco.



Generally speaking, "membership entails a commitment to live and work as brothers and sisters united in spiritual and apostolic solidarity. This requires that member groups get to know each other, help each other, mutually foster vocations, open lines of communication and share significant moments in the life of each." [*Acts of the General Council #304* (April-June 1982), p. 64]

### **TWENTY-THREE MEMBER GROUPS OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY**

Source: Statistical Data, General Chapter 25 (Rome 2002, updated to 2005)

(Listed in chronological order of membership)

1. Society of St. Francis de Sales (SDB) — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: St. John Bosco — Turin, December 18, 1859 — Rector Major: Fr. Pascual Chávez Villanueva

2. Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founders: St. John Bosco, St. Mary Dominica Mazzarello — Mornese, August 5, 1872 — Mother General: Sr. Antonia Colombo

3. Association of Salesian Cooperators (CC SS) — Public Association of the Faithful — Founder: St. John Bosco — Turin, May 9, 1876 — General Coordinator: Mr. Rosario Maiorano

4. World Federation of the Past-Pupils of Don Bosco (EX. DB) — Worldwide Civil Association — Founder: Blessed Philip Rinaldi — Turin, March 1908

5. World Federation of the Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (EX. FMA) — Worldwide Civil Association — Founder: Blessed Philip Rinaldi — Turin, March 1908, confirmed October 28, 1988

6. Women Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB) — Secular Institute of pontifical right — Founder: Blessed Philip Rinaldi — Turin, May 20, 1917

7. Hijas de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y María (HH SS CC) [Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary] — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Fr. Luigi Variara, SDB — Agua de Dios, Colombia, May 7, 1905 — Membership: December 23, 1981

8. Salesiane Oblate del Sacro Cuore (SOSC) [Salesian Oblates of the Sacred Heart of Jesus] — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Bishop Giuseppe Cognata [SDB] — Bova Marina, December 8, 1933 — Membership: December 24, 1983

9. Apostole della Sacra Famiglia (ASF) [Apostles of the Holy Family] — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Cardinal Giuseppe Guarino — Messina, June 29, 1889 — Membership: December 24, 1983

10. Caritas Sisters of Miyasaki (CSM) — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Fr. Antonio Cavoli, SDB — Miyasaki, August 15, 1937 — Membership: January 24, 1986

11. Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Bishop Stefano Ferrando [SDB] — Guwahati, India, October 24, 1942 — Membership: June 27, 1986

12. Hijas del Divino Salvador (HDS) [Daughters of the Divine Savior] — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Bishop Pedro Arnoldo Aparicio [SDB] — San Vicente, El Salvador, December 25, 1956 — Membership: February 5, 1987

13. Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (SIHM) — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Bishop Gaetano Pasotti [SDB] — Bang Nok Khuek, Thailand, December 7, 1937 — Membership: February 6, 1987

14. Irmas de Jesús Adolescente (IJA) [Sisters of Jesus the Adolescent] — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Bishop Vicente Priante [SDB] — Campo Grande, Brazil, December 8, 1938 — Membership: December 23, 1988

15. Asociación Damas Salesianas (ADS) [Salesian Ladies' Association] — Private Association of the Faithful — Founder: Fr. Miguel Gonzáles, SDB — Caracas, Venezuela, May 13, 1968 — Membership: December 29, 1988

16. Associazione di Maria Ausiliatrice (ADMA) [Association of Mary Help of Christians] — Public Association of

the Faithful — Founder: St. John Bosco — Turin, April 18, 1869 — Membership: July 5, 1989

17. Catechist Sisters of Mary Immaculate and Help of Christians (SMI) — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Bishop Louis La Ravoire Morrow [SDB] — Krishnagar, India, December 12, 1948 — Membership: June 10, 1992

18. Daughters of the Queenship of Mary (DOM) — Secular Institute of diocesan right — Founder: Fr. Carlo Della Torre, SDB — Bangkok, Thailand, December 3, 1954 — Membership: July 18, 1992

19. Volontari con Don Bosco (Volontari CDB) [Volunteers with Don Bosco] — Public Association of the Faithful (soon to become a Secular Institute) — Founder: Fr. Egidio Viganò, SDB — Rome, September 12, 1994 — Membership: September 12, 1994

20. Testimoni del Risorto per il 2000 (TR 2000) [Witnesses of the Risen Lord for the Year 2000] — Ecclesial Movement — Founder: Fr. Sabino Palumbieri, SDB — Naples, December 8, 1984 — Membership: March 25, 1999

21. Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel — Religious Congregation of pontifical right — Founder: Blessed Broneslav Markiewicz — Miejsce Piastowe, Poland, 1921 — Membership: January 24, 2000

22. Congregation of Sisters of the Resurrection — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Fr. George Puthenpura, SDB — San Pedro Carchá, Guatemala, September 15, 1977 — Membership: 2004

23. Sisters Announcers of the Lord — Religious Congregation of diocesan right — Founder: Bishop Ignazio Canazei (after inspiration of Bishop Martyr Saint Luigi Versiglia — Shiu Chow, China, May 31, 1931 — Membership: 2005

Note: As of 2005 over twenty additional groups have submitted application for membership and are awaiting action by Rector Major Fr. Pascual Chávez and his council.

“Enjoy yourself as much  
as you like if only you  
keep from sin.”

Don Bosco

**Deacon  
Tho Bui, S.D.B.**  
*New Deacon  
for Salesians*



# Salesians from Stockton in Holy Orders.

By Fr. Thomas Prendiville, SDB



*Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you now are Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach. Bishop Stephen Blaire presents the Bool of the Gospels to Deacon Tho Bui. June 10, 2006.*

June 10, 2006 was the ordination day for Fr. Chinh Nguyen and Deacon Tho Bui at St. Luke parish, Stockton. These two Salesians, former parishioner of St. Luke's, returned to the parish of their families for the Ordination Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Blaire of Stockton. Both families have been active members of the Vietnamese community at St. Luke's. Fr. Tuan Nguyen, SDB, has guided the Vietnamese Catholic community with the support of Fr. Mathew O'Donnell, the pastor, a graduate of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Rosemead. Fr. Chinh Nguyen became a Salesian in 1998 and has completed his theological studies at Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley. His first priestly assignment will be at St. John Bosco High School, Bellflower. Deacon Tho Bui professed, perpetually, as a Salesian in 2003 and continues his theological studies at Don Bosco Hall for the coming year. He looks forward to his priestly ordination. We commend the families of our new Priest and new Deacon for their steadfast faith. These families suffered through the ravages of the Vietnam War and have relocated in the Stockton area.



*The newly ordained Deacon Tho Bui, SDB, leads the concelebrating priests into the Mary Help of Christian Vietnamese Center for the "first Mass" of Fr. Chinh Nguyen. Stockton, Calif. June 11, 2006.*



*Ordination Mass. The assembly of people pray over the  
All you holy men and women*



*Bishop Stephen Blaire and Fr. Chinh Nguyen: May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.*



**Father  
Chinh Nguyen, S.D.B**  
*New Priest  
for Salesians*



*Bishop Stephen Blaire presents the newly ordained Fr. Chinh Nguyen with a paten and chalice. Accept from the holy people of God the gifts to be offered to him. Know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate,*



*prostrate Chinh Nguyen and Tho Bui. pray for us.*



*The newly ordained Fr. Chinh Nguyen and the new Deacon Tho Bui join with Bishop Stephen Blaire and the concelebrating priests for the Eucharistic prayer of the Mass.*

# An Important Message From Fr. David Purdy, SDB, Provincial



Dear Friends:

**F**or several years now, the Salesians have grappled with the issue of sexual abuse against children in our schools and under our care.

The past episodes of abuse are deeply hurtful to all of us. Our mission — the mission of St. John Bosco — has suffered because of the misdeeds of a few Brothers and Priests who had serious social and psychological problems.

As painful as this is, it is important that I share with you the facts. There are a total of 18 cases that allege sexual abuse against Salesians in the Western United States Province. In addition, five cases have been concluded and settlements paid to the victims. Most of the alleged incidents occurred more than 40 years ago. In the vast majority of cases, we were unaware of the allegations against Brothers or Priests. However, at no time did we ever knowingly shift any alleged abuser to another facility.

***All 18 cases are being investigated. It must be noted, however, that while the allegations in some of these cases appear to be well founded, other do not. Some of the accused vehemently deny the allegations and it's very likely some cases will be proved to be untrue. You may choose to reserve judgment until you know more of the facts.***

We want you to know that our goal as educators is to address the current situation honestly and directly. We want parishioners, parents, students, faculty and staff and the public to know that we have taken positive and proactive steps to prevent sexual abuse.

These measures include:

- \* Implement Zero Tolerance policy regarding sexual abuse

- \* Educate all staff, students and parents about policies related to sexual abuse
- \* Establish protocols to ensure all school environments are harassment free in all arenas
- \* Report immediately any incident, either past or present, to the appropriate authorities
- \* Conduct background check of all teachers and key staff as required by law
- \* Apply procedures for handling past incidents. These include investigation by independent groups and, when appropriate, offer apology, counseling services and other suitable measures

In addition, we have hired a nationally-recognized organization in abuse risk management, Praesidium, to review our existing policies and procedures and develop recommendations for additional preventive measures and protocols to the Society and its schools. Their efforts, which began this year, will be implemented over the coming years.

Finally, we understand and share your concern and the deep hurt that these allegations and incidents of sexual abuse have caused. You have our assurance that we recognize the pain that has been caused by this reprehensible behavior. We will continue to work with you and our schools to ensure that it never happens again.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kindest regards,

Father David Purdy.

# A Letter of Gratitude

By Jerry Waite

Dear Mr. Merjano,

During late 2005, Celia and I had a serious discussion regarding how our monthly tithe could have the greatest impact on people who most need our support. During those discussions, I recalled how my parents had been dirt poor when they sent me to the Don Bosco Technical Institute in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I know that my mom and dad couldn't have kept up with the tuition. However, the Salesians never bothered me about payments. Instead, they showed me true Christian compassion while, at the same time, providing me with an education that continues to serve me well all these years later. After I graduated from the Tech, I asked Mrs. Anne Gibbs, who was then the school bookkeeper, how much I owed for back tuition. She smiled and told me it was already covered.

Even though I was never dunned for tuition—or even “allowed” to pay it—I realized then (and continue to realize) how much I owe the Salesians. In particular, while I was a student at the Tech, Br. Jack McLinden, Brother George Ghiselli, Fr. Paul Caporali, Fr. Bill Schafer, and Brother Gene Burns were instrumental in making me who I am today. Those Salesians, supported by laymen Leo Strasser and Paul Kennedy, inspired me to become a graphics teacher first at Don Bosco and subsequently at the University of Houston.

I taught at Don Bosco Tech for 20 years and rose from assistant instructor of Photolithography to chair of the Graphic Communications department to Dean of Technology. As I worked to continuously improve myself, I had an opportunity to move to Arizona State University to work on my doctorate as a graduate assistant. I mentioned the opportunity to then President Fr. Bill Schafer who most graciously offered to give me an in-house “assistantship” which would allow me to work on my Ed.D. while continuing to draw my full salary from the Tech. How supportive is that?

In early 1993, I was approached by the University of Houston and by the Printing Industries Association of the Gulf Coast to inaugurate a program in Graphic Communications management in Houston. I shared this opportunity with Fr. Nick Reina, who was President of the Tech at the time, and he enthusiastically supported my move by saying, “we need a Salesian in Houston.” Words cannot begin to describe the feeling of love and support those words still bring to my heart. I have truly attempted to be a Salesian to my UH students, reaching out to them with religion, reason, and kindness as I know St. John Bosco would want. My students recognize

that there's something about me that's different than other professors. So, I repeatedly receive among the highest teaching evaluations in the College of Technology and have won the College Teaching Excellence Award on numerous occasions. Let me be clear...this is not my doing. It's the work of St. John Bosco through me.

So, when faced with a decision about how best to “invest” our tithe, we decided to support the Salesians' work by donating monthly to their scholarship program. In the same way that my tuition bill “magically” disappeared, Celia and I want to support deserving young men and women in Salesian schools whose parents may not be able to afford the cost. Or, we'd like to see that Salesian students are “covered” if their families have financial emergencies.

Salesians make a huge difference in young peoples' lives. In a day when politicians and school administrators “talk the talk,” Salesians “walk the walk.” They teach fundamentally important concepts to students in a way that enriches both mind and soul. Put another way, Eliza Doolittle, in *My Fair Lady*, said: “The difference between a flower girl and a lady is not who she is, but how she is treated.” Salesians treat those with whom they come in contact as children of God, brought to them through the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians. That's why they're successful and bring hope, light, and knowledge to those students who public schools dismiss as incorrigible. After all, I was incorrigible and from a near-destitute family. I'm now a professor with a wife of 27+ years and three fine grown children. It's because the Salesians saw who I was and showed me how to become who I am.

Sincerely,  
Jerry J. Waite, Ed.D.



# Monthly Giving Program

The Salesian Society has recently started a Monthly Giving Program. Similar to many Parishes, donors may sign-up to have gifts automatically deducted from their credit cards. For the donor, our Monthly Giving Program is an easy and convenient way to support the work of the Salesians in the Western Province. Once a donor establishes a gift, it is an automatic process for as long as you indicate.

For our work, the monthly giving is a wonderful source of funding and provides stability in the finances of the Province. By knowing the intentions of our donors in advance, we are better able to budget and make plans for our programs.

Gifts made through the Monthly Giving Program can be directed to any of our programs or remain unrestricted. When enrolling in the Monthly Giving Program, you might want to consider directing your gift to one of the following programs:

- ⊙ Training and Formation of New Salesians
- ⊙ Care for Aged Salesians
- ⊙ Scholarships for students to attend Salesian Schools and Camps
- ⊙ Don Bosco Associates for the support of the Provincial's Fund (the provincial will then direct your gift to the area where it is most needed).
- ⊙ Unrestricted gifts are always welcome and will support the work of the Province.

Your gift to the Monthly Giving Program is easy to set-up and can be cancelled at any time. If you would like additional information about how you can set up a monthly gift to benefit the programs of the Salesian Society, please contact the Development Office at (415) 441-7144.

Within a few days of establishing the Monthly Giving Program, we had our first donors! Jerry and Celia Waite established a monthly gift that benefits our Scholarship fund. We were so moved and delighted to have our first monthly gift that we asked the Waites about their motivations for their generosity.



By Fr. Ralph Murphy, SDB



*RMG-Rome, Italy - 27 March 2006 - Fr Pascual Chavez, Rector Major of the Salesians and Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun during a meeting with Salesians in the Generalate to whom he the 'Good Night'.*

## Salesian Cardinal Joseph Zen, Bishop of Hong Kong.

**Rome.** In a March 24<sup>th</sup> consistory Pope Benedict XVI called Salesian Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-Kiun to be a member of the College of Cardinals joining six other Salesian Cardinals. Cardinal Zen's statement after the February 22<sup>nd</sup> announcement of his appointment was, "This appointment is a sign of the Pope's goodwill and love for the whole of China. This appointment is a mark of approval for what I have done so far, a confirmation that we have not lost our bearings. The pope knows all about the positions we have taken. This decision is reassuring, as well as an indication of support." Named

Coadjutor Bishop of Hong Kong in 1996, Bishop Zen was installed as Bishop in 2002. At a reception after his installation he remarked, “You may even attempt to threaten and blackmail God and tell the Lord that if he does not give the Bishop wisdom, it’s going to be a mess and that the church could be damaged and his name tarnished and that of the enemies of the Church will laugh at us, saying, ‘where is your God?’ ”

Cardinal Zen remarked that he had not expected the red hat and the responsibilities of Cardinal to be in his future. “I am almost 75 and was thinking about retirement,” he said. “I had made my plans.” Things changed for him in the February 22<sup>nd</sup> announcement.

### Chinese Government appointment for Director of Youth Outreach.

**Hong Kong.** The Hong Kong Education and Manpower Bureau announced in March new appointments for its two year old Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth. The appointment to the Task Force of Fr. Peter Newbery, SDB is an important one. The Hong Kong government has long been able to witness the Salesian contribution in general and Fr. Newbery’s experience and commitment in particular to non-engaged youth. In 1998 Fr. Newbery received an award from the Chief Executive of Hong Kong recognizing the work done through Youth Outreach which he developed and implemented. He is also the author of several practical books on youth work and youth leadership as well as many scholarly articles on young people and their problems.

### Japan assists Don Bosco Rural Training Center.

**Honiara, Solomon Islands.** Don Bosco’s Rural Training Center, Tetere, took ownership of its \$264,000 (Solomon dollars) mechanics building on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. The building and tools were donations from the Japanese Government and shows its continuous support towards the development of Rural Training centers in the Solomon Islands. Don Bosco’s RTC enrolls over 30 mechanical students between the ages of 18 and 25.

### Major Australian Technical Initiative based at Melbourne Salesian School.

**Melbourne.** The Australian Commonwealth Government has over recent years been planning a major initiative to provide sorely needed traditional technical skills for the Australian labor market. In January 2006, 25 Australian Technical Colleges opened across the nation. One of these is based in Eastern Melbourne on two campuses, one of which is St. Joseph’s College, Ferntree Gully, a Salesian school. This puts St.

Joseph’s in the forefront of technical training innovation in the country. The schools current specialization is Cabinet-making and Electrotechnology.

### A Small Plane at the Service of the Shuar and Achuar people.

**Quito, Ecuador.** On March 4, 2006, Bishop Pedro Gabrielli, SDB, Vicar Apostolic of Mendez, blessed a Cessna 206 plane. It will be used as part of the “Missionary Air Service,” and has been acquired thanks to the contribution of the “Adoption Project” of the Italian Lombardy-Emiliano province and a German Foundation aimed at helping Evangelization work in Ecuador.

### An Enthralling New Book from Fr. James O’Halloran.

**Dublin, Ireland.** Fr. James O’Halloran is a Salesian priest who is well known for his work with Christian small communities and Christian youth groups for over thirty five years. He has carried out this mission world wide but especially in Latin American and Africa. He is a well-know author whose latest book published by the Colomba Press is “Saving the Fish from Drowning—Reflections from the Barrio.” In it the author shares his thoughts on justice and peace, community, education and other issues in a highly readable fashion. Intermingled with the prose pieces are poems, stories and quotations from other writers.



*Maputo, Mozambique - 8 March 2006 - Formation course attended by the Rectors of Salesian communities, delegates and the members of the Council of the Mozambique Delegation. Held between 26 February and 4 March at the Novitiate in Namaache, the course was led by Fr Chrys Saldanha (second from the right in the front row) from the Formation Department.*



*Zafferana Etnea, Italy - 30 March 2006 - Fr Pier Fausto Frisoli Regional Councillor for Italy and the Middle East with the young people of the Salesian Youth Movement in Sicily on the occasion of their 2006 Region Meeting held between 24 and 26 March.*

### **In Memory of the Persecuted Salesians.**

**Sastin, Slovakia.** On March 25, 2006 at Sastin there was an official commemoration of the Salesians who were victims of the persecution during the communist regime in Slovakia between 1950 and 1989. Fr. Stefan Turansky, provincial, joined some 20 other priests and over 200 of the faithful at the concelebrated Eucharist. At the end of the Eucharist a plaque was unveiled with the names of the 44 Salesians who were victims of the persecution.

### **New Office for Formation of Lay People.**

**New Rochelle, New York.** Fr. James Heuser, provincial has announced the appointment of Fr. Tom Dunne to head up the new Province Office for Lay Formation. Fr. Dunne comes to this role with vast experience in working with laity, especially with the formation of young people, as he has just completed 15 years as Director of Youth Ministry in the Boston Archdiocese.

### **Mamma Margaret honored at Capriglio.**

**Capriglio, Italy.** The main square in Capriglio has been dedicated to Mamma Margaret, Don Bosco's mother. Local dignitaries were present for the occasion. A book entitled "In the Steps of Mamma Margaret" by Diego Occhiena and Luigi Candelo was presented. It is an attempt to keep alive in her home town the memory of the human and Christian values so worthily found in the life of Margaret Occhiena. In his

homily Bishop Francesco Ravinale of Asti pointed out that the civil and religious recognition and honoring of Mamma Margaret was an expression of gratitude to God for the gifts of motherhood and the family, indispensable of a worthy development of human and Christian life.

### **Pro-life Rally Highlights the beauty of Sexuality and Dignity of all Human Life.**

**South Orange, New Jersey.** The New Rochelle province annual Pro-Life Rally took place in South Orange on April 5<sup>th</sup>, gathering more than a thousand young people. The day was planned to be positive, joyful and fun—and so it turned out to be. In content the day was rich, direct and challenging. There was a keynote speaker, skits, upbeat music and T Shirts for the occasion. Opportunity for sacramental Reconciliation and the Eucharist anchored the day in an encounter with Jesus. The Pope's Donation to the diocese of Maasin.

**Maasin, Philippines.** Bishop Precioso Cantillas, SDB, bishop of Maasin has expressed his gratitude to Pope Benedict XVI for allocating offerings collected on Holy Thursday to his diocese. During the ceremony of the washing of feet in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, with the Pope presiding, the congregation was invited to express through their charitable gifts support for the re-building project for the homes destroyed in the land-slide which struck the diocese in February. According to the statistics provided by the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines the mud slide which hit the area on February 17, 2006, killed 972 people and caused damage estimated at about four million dollars.

## Sierra Leone, West Africa

By Fr. Albert Mengon, SDB

Yet another tiny piece of the colorful puzzle of the Catholic church in Sierra Leone was recently set in place: a small but pleasant chapel in honor of Saint Ann, the mother of Mary, the grandmother of Jesus.

African wisdom maintains that it takes an entire village to educate a young woman/man. This wisdom applies also to the realization of the St. Ann church. **Sister Veronica**, a Clarissan Sister from Mexico, living in Italy, visiting Sierra Leone, did the honors of sketching this diamond shaped house of worship. The **Tate family** in Southern California very much wanted to keep alive the memory of their late father, John, a graduate of Bosco Tech in Rosemead. A chapel in far away Africa was the perfect answer. Likewise the **Dennis Varni** family in Northern California wanted the same for their dear young mother Barbara. Dennis is a graduate of Salesian High School in Richmond. The rest was left to the local artists in Lungi; artists of stones and bricks and mortar, artists of mahogany wood. But the best contribution must be credited to our own **Master Kelleh Mansaray**. Four are the majestic pictures artist Kelleh reserved for the St. Ann church: *Mama Ann Teaching Young Mary, The Feeding of the Five Thousand, The Last Supper, and The Two Disciples of Emmaus.*

Thus the St. Ann church has become a reality and a source of pride and joy for the entire population of Yongro, Tholomosor and Mahera villages, Catholic and Muslim alike.



*The “voice” of the St. Ann church is being put in place; it will call the faithful to worship for year to come.*



*Dedication day: The community says thank you to the Tate and Varni Families.*



*We begin with the ABC of the Catholic faith: the pioneers of the St. Ann Catholic community.*

# SALESIANS of DON BOSCO

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