



INTOUCH

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

USA WEST PROVINCE NEWSLETTER • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2018



Dear Salesian sisters and brothers,

Greetings from Bellflower where I will stay until Wednesday.

Yesterday, the Province of St. Andrew, the Western Salesian Province of the United States, with great joy and pride celebrated the Perpetual Vows of Br. Peter Le, at St. Dominic Savio Church in Bellflower. Several hundred people came from near and far to celebrate this blessed moment. Although, originally, the Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, had been scheduled to be with us but was unable to enter the United States, for reasons already mentioned in previous letters, Fr. Tim Ploch, our Regional, was able to grace us with his presence and be the principal presider at the Eucharist.

The Liturgy was well prepared, thanks to Br. Peter and his team. There was a wonderful spirit of welcome and a beautiful sense of belonging to the Salesian Family. The music and well orchestrated movements of the Liturgy created a beautiful spirit of prayer and fraternity. A most moving part of the Liturgy, at least for me, was the part where all the perpetually professed confreres came up to hug and congratulate our new perpetually professed brother, Peter. This gesture is repeated at all our perpetual vows ceremonies but the significance of belonging and promise of support from all of us, always touches me. I hope we can all feel this same sense of belonging and support.

After the Liturgy, which lasted an hour and forty minutes, all those in attendance were invited to the Church hall for a reception which consisted of 10 or more tables with different ethnic foods and areas to sit down. Most people seemed to prefer to mingle and move around and greet and "catch up," in a very Salesian style. There was plenty of food for everyone and space to sit or move around and mingle. Br. Peter Le's Family had added to the celebration by bringing many dishes of Vietnamese food, enough to feed an army. "Thank you" to Br. Peter's family for their generous donation and contribution. And, many thanks to Myriam Rodriguez and her team for all of their work in helping to put





together such a beautiful reception.

We thank God for the gift of Br. Peter, his presence, his "yes" to God's call to serve the young as a Salesian for the rest of his life. Let us continue to pray and accompany Peter as he journeys toward Ordination to the Priesthood. These days Peter leaves for Turin, Italy to continue his Theological studies. Congratulations to Peter and a heartfelt THANK YOU to all those who helped prepare such a memorable event and celebration.

This week will be a busy week for me as I attend a Members meeting at St. John Bosco, Bellflower, a Members meeting in Richmond for Salesian High School and a Board retreat on Friday for Don Bosco Technical School in Rosemead. This will entail traveling up to

Northern California and back down to Los Angeles. The week after, September 23 to October 1, I will be traveling to Texas for a home visit and to visit our parish, San Luis Rey.

The month of October also brings some significant events and gatherings. On October 6, the Provincial Councils of the SDB and FMA of the Western Provinces will meet for a one day meeting at St. Mary's in Boyle Heights. On the 7th, the Province will honor our Jubilarians at a 3pm Mass at St. Dominic Savio Parish. And, on the 21st, I fly out to Santo Domingo to attend the annual Provincials meeting of our Inter-American region, led by Fr. Tim Ploch. That meeting will end on Sunday, October 28th.

In the gathering of our Provincial Council with the Rector Major in

Tijuana last week, Fr. Angel asked us how many members were in the province. We said around 85. Fr. Angel said that even with 60 members we could run a dynamic and vibrant province. Fr. Angel mentioned several provinces in the Congregation with similar numbers. It is not the number but the quality and dynamism of its members. But, aside from the number of SDBs, we have many committed lay people in our works, cooperators, FMAs (Salesian Sisters) and different branches of the Salesian Family. We are blessed in this province to have so many very dedicated followers of Don Bosco who want to continue and help grow the mission and vision of our founder. The Rector Major's comment on the number of SDBs needed for a vibrant province, has stayed in my mind and has been part of my reflection and prayer this last week

since we met with him. How much we could accomplish if every one of us committed himself or herself to live the Salesian Spirit fully and with enthusiasm. To be on fire for God and for the young in the style of Don Bosco is a gift and a blessing for our province and the Church. Imagine what we could do if each one of us was on fire for God, for our brothers and for the young. As the last General Chapter reminded us: we are called to be "mystics in the Spirit," "prophets of fraternity," and "servants of the young." Br. Peter Le did not make his own vows nor was he consecrated for his own mission. Peter vowed to follow God's call for a mission given to him by God and for the sake of the young, especially, those who are poor and most in need and to live in communion with his brothers. And, I would add, lived in communion with others who are part of the Salesian Family and have the same vision and commitment. Jesus started with twelve Apostles (all were not faithful) and Don Bosco started with 18 very young men, the first Salesians, who while not very clear on all the implications of their commitment, chose to stay with Don Bosco. We thank God for Peter; but, we thank God for all the other men and women who have also said, "yes," and continue to sustain us by their witness of fidelity. I meet them every day and live among some of them. May we not just persevere but may we live our Salesian life, fully alive and filled with passion and enthusiasm. It will make all the difference in our Province.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Fr. Ted



Prayer in Preparation for Synod 2018

Come Holy Spirit

Inspire community,

As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy
in the lives and communities of the People of God.

Come Holy Spirit of Youth

Fill the hearts of young people

with the hope and love of Jesus Christ.

Enliven our community with the creativity,
energy and joy of youth.

Guide us together, as we strive to offer God's mercy
to those who feel abandoned or outcast.

Come Holy Spirit of Faith

Empower our community to be courageous.

Unite your people as witnesses of love.

Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship,

Accompanying young people
as we renew the Church together.

Come Holy Spirit of Vocation

Stir within young people an awareness of God's call.

Reveal to us the graces of young people.

Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices

To build a civilization of love.

Amen.

Oración en Preparación para el Sínodo 2018

Ven, Espíritu Santo

Inspira a nuestra comunidad,
Mientras discernimos en la oración nuevos horizontes para difundir la alegría
en las vidas y comunidades del Pueblo de Dios.

Ven, Espíritu Santo de la Juventud

Llena los corazones de los jóvenes
con la esperanza y amor de Jesucristo.
Vivifica nuestra comunidad con la creatividad,
energía y alegría de la juventud.
Guíanos juntos, mientras nos esforzamos por ofrecer la misericordia de Dios
a aquellos que se sienten abandonados o marginados.

Ven, Espíritu Santo de Fe

Anima a nuestra comunidad a ser valiente.
Une a tu pueblo como testigos de amor.
Camina con nosotros, mientras iluminamos nuevos caminos de discipulado,
Acompañando a los jóvenes
y renovando la Iglesia juntos.

Ven, Espíritu Santo de la Vocación

Suscita entre los jóvenes la conciencia del llamado de Dios.
Revélanos las gracias de los jóvenes.
Guíanos a todos a encontrar nuestro lugar y levantar nuestras voces
Para construir la civilización del amor.

Amén.

Lord Jesus

in journeying towards the Synod,
your Church
turns her attention
to all the young people of the world.
We pray that they might boldly
take charge of their lives,
aim for the most beautiful
and profound things of life and always
keep their hearts unencumbered.

Accompanied by wise
and generous guides,
help them respond to
the call you make to each of them,
to realize a proper plan of life
and achieve happiness.
Keep their hearts open
to dreaming great dreams
and make them concerned
for the good of others.

Like the Beloved Disciple,
may they stand
at the foot of the Cross,
to receive your Mother
as a gift from you.
May they be witnesses
to your Resurrection
and be aware that
you are at their side
as they joyously
proclaim you as Lord.

Amen

Señor Jesus,

mientras caminamos hacia el Sínodo,
nuestra Iglesia
pone su atención
en todos los jóvenes del mundo.
Oramos para que valientemente
puedan hacerse cargo de sus vidas,
aspiren a las cosas más hermosas
y profundas de la vida y mantengan
sus corazones libres de impedimentos.

Acompañados
por guías sabios y generosos,
ayúdales a responder
al llamado que haces a cada uno de ellos,
a realizar un adecuado proyecto de vida
y alcanzar la felicidad.
Mantén sus corazones abiertos
para soñar grandes sueños,
y hazlos preocuparse por el bien de otros.

Como el Discípulo Amado,
que puedan estar
al pie de la Cruz,
para recibir a tu Madre
como regalo tuyo.
Que sean testigos
de tu Resurrección
y sean conscientes
de que tú estás a su lado
mientras caminan gozosamente
a proclamarte como su Señor.

Amén



St. Luke's Parish

Unforgettable Day by the Bay

By Paul DeValle
Coordinator for Youth Ministry (CYM)

Each September St. Luke (Stockton) Salesian Summer Camp Counselors are treated to a special day to say "Thank you" for the great job they did at camp. This year we headed to San Francisco for a Day by the Bay, planning to end the evening with mass at Sts. Peter & Paul with the Rector Major. As you know, plans changed and the rector major was not able to visit. Since most of our counselors had never been to beautiful Sts. Peter and Paul church, and many had not seen Fr. Gael and Br. Ernie for some time we stuck to the plan to attend the 5 PM Mass. Prior to Mass the counselors did the "tourist thing" and canvased the waterfront area from Pier 39 to Fisherman's wharf. It was a sunny and picture perfect day to stroll, watch the street performers, visit the mirror maze and arcades, eat some clam chowder, crepes and funnel cakes and even 'build a bear' or two. In the late afternoon Fr. Gael and Br. Ernie welcomed us at Sts. Peter and Paul as Fr. Marc vested in preparation for Mass. After Mass Fr. Al, microphone in hand, gave a fascinating history of the church (the most photographed church in all San Francisco) and then allowed us to wander about and admire the architecture and statuary. The counselors were taken over to the hall where our gracious hosts provided plenty of "North Beach'

Pizza and soda before we had to say our goodbyes and head back to Stockton. A big thank you to Fr. Gael, Br. Ernie, & Fr. Al for taking time from their busy schedules to show us such hospitality and remind us that whether it's the oldest Salesian parish (or one of the newest in the province)....it's all good...it's all Salesian!



St. Dominic Savio Parish

Fall Fiesta 2018

By Pam and Bill Parnell
Parishioners

Join the St. Dominic Savio Community September 28, 29, and 30 for our annual Fall Fiesta! There will be food for purchase sponsored by various parish groups, games, and rides for all ages! Don't forget to buy tickets for our mega raffle! This years grand prize is \$10,000!

St. Dominic Savio Parish is located in Bellflower, CA.

13400 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706





Don Bosco Technical Institute

Gear up for High School

By Karen Krynen

Bosco Tech Communications Officer

Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will present "Gear Up for High School," a high school preview night for elementary and middle school students on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the school's Rosemead campus.

During the complimentary event, representatives from local Catholic private and archdiocesan high schools will provide information and answer questions about their admissions process, curriculum, and academic and extracurricular programs.

"'Gear Up for High School' is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the many quality Catholic secondary schools in our area," said Bosco Tech Principal Xavier Jimenez. "We're gathering local high schools as a convenience for families in the community. They can learn about several different schools in one place."

Call (626) 940-2011 or email admissions@boscotech.edu for more information. Parking is available in both the lot located on San Gabriel Blvd. and the lot off Arroyo Dr., between Rose Glen Ave. and Paramount Blvd.

Bosco Tech is an all-male Catholic high school that combines a rigorous college-preparatory program with a technology-focused education. The innovative curriculum allows students to exceed university admissions requirements while completing extensive integrated coursework in one of several applied science and engineering fields. On Niche.com's list of top boys high schools and Catholic high schools in California and the U.S., Bosco Tech boasts a four-year college acceptance rate of 100 percent, with the majority of graduates pursuing STEM-related post-secondary majors and careers.

Visit www.boscotech.edu or call 626-940-2000 for more information.

2018 College Fair

Bosco Tech will host its annual college fair for local high school students and their parents on Tuesday, October 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. The complimentary event will feature representatives from public and private universities and colleges across the country.

Register:

www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-don-bosco-technical-institute-college-fair-tickets-48818246690

2018
COLLEGE FAIR
SPONSORED BY THE PRINCETON REVIEW
TUESDAY 2
OCTOBER 6-8pm
DBTI Campus, 1151 San Gabriel Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770
<http://www.BOSCOTECH.edu>
For more information contact:
Mr. Paul Ortiz at 626-940-2036 / portiz@boscotech.edu OR
Mr. Ray Chavez at 626-940-2084 / rchavez@boscotech.edu



XIII Preferential Option Meeting

Focus on childhood, adolescence and high-risk youth

By J.C Montenegro
Delegate for Mission Animation

(ANS - Fusagasugá) - The XIII Preferential Option Meeting took place from 2 to 7 September at the "Salesianum" Spirituality House in Fusagasugá to review the implementation of the 2015-2020 strategic plan for "The animation of the processes of attention to childhood, adolescence and high-risk youth in the Interamerica region", defined at the meeting in Haiti (XI meeting - October 2014).

Each day of the meeting was associated with a term that expressed the proposed theme.

1st day: Recognize;
2nd day: Share;
3rd day: Form;
4th day: Work (on a map of good practices);
5th day: Visit.

Among the most salient aspects of the guidelines and work developed in accordance with the strategic plan are:

- Start from the great wealth already gathered and shared in the region.
- Ask the Regional to structure a Network of Social Works or Preferential Option, specifying the priority elements that would go towards constituting the Network
- Propose that the provincial authority define if it wants to be part of this Network.
- Strengthen the animation team of the preferential option, defining roles, functions ...
- Prioritize the basic lines of action that must be adopted.

- Ensure a greater regional-provincial commitment.
- Ensure the continuity of service of the people who make up the working groups of preferential option.

On the fifth day of the meeting, the structures of the "Juan Bosco Obrero Center" and the "Niño Jesús" Salesian building in Bogotá were visited, where it was possible to see the work developed through various Salesian programs, all aimed at guaranteeing full participation of children, adolescents and young people.

"A clear option of work in and as a network must be designed to have a greater impact and to obtain better possibilities for cooperation", was one of the important contributions of Fr Juan Linares, of the Spanish Salesian NGO "Jóvenes y Desarrollo".

Also attending were: Fr Juan Carlos Quirarte (MEG), Coordinator of the regional team, with the other members of the team: Fr Héctor Franco (COB), Fr Rafael Bejarano (COM), Fr Carlos Piantini (ANT) Juan Carlos Montenegro (SUO), James Areiza (COM) and Fernando Duarte (COB).

Also noteworthy, the contributions by: Fr Daniel García, from the Dicastery for Youth Ministry; Fr Linares; Jaime Correa, Director of the Salesian International Programs Office of Salesians Mission, USA; Reinhard Heiserer, Director of "Jugend Eine Welt", Austria; and Lina Varon, Head of "Jóvenes y Desarrollo" for projects in Latin America.

Who are the young people that we work with?

Last week I had the blessing to be present in the option for the poor meeting in Colombia. This meeting has the objective to find the way of networking together as a whole region towards working with the young people who are in the most need.

Don Bosco chose to work with the poorest young people of his time. The young people who migrated from the farms to the cities to improve their lives and just found dangers and problems. He chose not to have an accommodated life to serve his boys.

The question that we should ask ourselves is: who are the young people who need us the most? And maybe the answer will vary from community to community, however, at the province level maybe the common denominator is; the children of migrants. Children who feel that they don't belong in the US nor to the country where their parents came from and these are the young people that we have in our communities.

Once we have defined the children who need us the most, the next question is what are we doing for them? And this is the answer that I want to leave you with.

Let's work for our young people!



Loneliness –

Understanding Self-Esteem and Loneliness (Part 3)

By Sheila Kun RN, BA, BSN, MS, FCCP
(Salesian Cooperator)

We examined the work of Sean D. Sammon FMS on his presentation of Intimacy, Loneliness and Solitude last week. Let us continue the conversation by reviewing Sean's definition of loneliness. Sean defined loneliness as a complex and usually unpleasant emotional response to isolation or lack of companionship. He went on to say that it is the feeling of sadness resulting from being forsaken or abandoned. Loneliness could be the product of unhealthy self-esteem. The vulnerable periods of having the feelings of disengagement, disorientation, disillusion and role confusion are the times of transition. A good example of this transition period is the loss of spouse or retirement. Hence developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. Three basic elements of healthy self-esteem:

- 1. I must feel that I am good: noble, attractive, lovable.*
- 2. I must feel that I am intelligent: having talent, am capable and adequate for the work I do, have the ability to cope and manage.*
- 3. I must feel that I have an interior power: can make some decisions about myself and survive in the world.*

Lack of healthy self-esteem may result in the experience of shame, and a sense of worthlessness. You might have neurotic inferiority and loneliness, and feelings of helplessness. You feel you have no control over your life. Poor self-esteem is a distorted filter of an objective reality, with the perception of stress and your feeling reaction

of "I am worthless, bad and suppressed". Therefore, to come out of this trap, you need to feel "I can do better" given the situation. This distorted thinking of inadequacy will go down the path of poor self-esteem, causing further dysfunction in life.

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Self-esteem and self-identity of clearly knowing who you are is pivotal to the understanding of the subsequent discussion on intimacy and solitude. Personally I feel very lucky in life because I had certain goals in life that guided me all my life; almost everything in the right direction. By 10 years old I already knew I wanted to study in an English Catholic School in Macao. After high school graduation, I had my eyes to study abroad. Now the odds were pretty slim – coming from a working class, with 6 siblings and a budgeted income, going abroad to attend college was a dream. But somewhat, I felt that nothing really could stop me by working hard in whatever position I

was at before coming to the United States. In addition to the teaching job, I gave private tutors to two students to raise my income. Then later on, when I joined the Immigration Service in Hong Kong, I was the "Best Recruit" in 1968. There was no social life per se; I still had 2 students for private tutoring with the immigration job. By 1969 I had saved enough money to buy myself an airline ticket and money for the first semester in college. Life was hard, but there was no such thing as I could not do it. I thank God every day for putting a good head on my shoulders. The feeling of gratitude overtakes any sense of self-depreciation or low self-esteem.

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week: Ask yourself: what are you good at in the service of God's people?

The Care Ministry welcomes your comments/suggestions:

kunlouis@gmail.com



**"In every
young person, a
point of goodness
is accessible**

**and it is the primary duty
of the educator to
discover that sensitive
cord of the heart so as to
draw out the best in the
young person."**

- Don Bosco