Dear Salesian Sisters and Brothers,

The Provincial Council and I just finished two days of meetings here at the Provincial House in San Francisco. During these intense days, we covered topics such as personnel, Formation, the May 31st Report due to the General Headquarters in Rome on our re-dimensioning plan, the July Directors Workshop, Financial matters and requests, agenda items for our week of planning up in Lake Arrowhead in early June and Youth Ministry events and activities. The days were full, fruitful and we accomplished much. We were energized and enabled to work more efficiently thanks to the hospitality of the Provincial House. Thank You!

These are busy days for everyone as schools wind down their academic year and parishes conclude their pastoral year and everyone gears up for summer assignments and ministry. As always, I am grateful for all the work that is done, especially, in our schools, for the young, particularly, for all those who are graduating. We should feel proud of the work that is done in our Salesian Schools and the positive effect we have had on our students. Now, after several years in a Salesian environment, these young men, hopefully, have not only been prepared for a successful academic future but also have been given the tools and foundation to make a positive difference in our world. I often reflect whether we have taught our students to cultivate good values and morals, to embrace the challenges of our world with courage and faith, to work and speak up for the voiceless, the vulnerable and the poor. Do our Salesian students stand out as young men and women who are not afraid to stand up for Christian values, to speak out when they see and hear of injustices and examples of exclusion and elitism?

Pope Francis knew the Salesians growing up. His father became a close friend of the Salesians, especially, Fr. Enrico Pozzoli, who became the family priest. Jorge Bergoglio spent only one year in a Salesian boarding school, in the sixth grade. But, that year made such an impact on his life that he still speaks most

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Fr. Luis Gryzko...............01
Fr. Ric Fernando...............05
Fr. Joe Farias...................08
Fr. Larry Lorenzoni..........12
Br. Bob Delis .................13
Fr. Rafael Saiz...............16
Fr. Edward Liptak...........16
Br. Benito Guerrero..........20
Fr. John O’Brien.............23
Fr. Lucian Lomello..........27
Fr. Juan Muñoz...............29

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Fr. Lucian Lomello, SDB
Br. Jerry Weirich, SDB
Br. Tony Matse, SDB
Fr. Armand Oliveri, SDB
Fr. Mario Rosso, SDB
Fr. John O’Brien, SDB
Fr. Avelino Lorenzo, SDB
highly of what he learned from the Salesians in that school. You can read the beautiful descriptions of his year with the Salesians in the books by Austen Ivereigh, The Great Reformer and Mark Shriver’s book, Pilgrimage, My Search for the Real Pope Francis. I quote here a few thoughts from these two books:

Speaking of his development of conscience, Jorge writes: “I learned, almost unconsciously, to seek the meaning of things.” The Salesians taught the young people about sin, but also forgiveness. The Salesians “weren’t afraid to confront us with the language of the cross of Jesus.” The Salesians spoke often of the needs of the poor and encouraged students to go without in order to give to those in need. “The day shot by like an arrow; there was never time to get bored,” Bergoglio recalled in 1990 in a letter to the Salesian provincial, Father Cayetano Bruno. The School was permeated by a natural Catholic culture, in which going to Mass was as normal as studying or playing. (Austen Ivereigh).

And, quoting from Mark Shriver’s book, he writes:

“Jorge would later write that the year he spent boarding at Colegio Baron not only prepared him well for high school and life but, more important, inculcate within him a “Catholic culture.”

Life at the School was a “whole.” We were submerged into a web of life, prepared so as to have no idle time. The day would fly by without any time to get bored. I felt immersed in a world that, although artificially “prepared” (with pedagogical resources) was not artificial at all. The natural thing was to go to mass every morning, have breakfast, study, go to class, play during the breaks, listen to the “Good Night” teachings of the Father Director. One got the chance to live the various intertwined aspects of life, and this created in me a conscience: not only a moral conscience but also a sort of human conscience (social, recreational artistic, etc.)….Everything was real, and everything directed at creating real habits, in its entirety. They created in us a cultural way of being. (Pilgrimage)

I quote these two sections from the above mentioned books because the description of Pope Francis’ time with the Salesians, (only one year in one of our boarding schools) left such a deep impression that it colored the rest of his life. All things were done with a purpose. It was there that Jorge learned to seek the meaning of things. How about our young people today? Most of them spend four years with us. Although, not boarding schools, do our students leave our “Salesian home” with the same formation, the same spiritual and cultural experience? Do they leave remembering us
fondly for the rest of their lives and with the passion to help the poor and change the world. This is a great challenge!

I will spend the next few days at the provincial house, finalizing a few of the assignments for next year and, hoping to visit some of the communities in the north. I will head down south toward the end of the week for the official visit of our Parish, St. Bridget’s.

There are a number of meetings and events that are taking place this month. Let us keep Fr. Nick Reina, Br. Al Vu, Mr. Pat Le and Mr. Memo Gutierrez, who, most of next week, will be attending the conference on Salesian Schools from our America Continent, in Medellin, Colombia. Several FMA and lay teachers from the West, will also be participating. Let us also remember our brothers in Orange, Br. James Nguyen and Br. Paul Garcia and several of the Eastern Brothers who will be graduating from Seton Hall next Monday. And, finally, Let us also continue to remember our Salesian Saints celebrated during this Month of May: St. Dominic Savio, St. Mary Dom- enica Mazzarello, St. Louis Ori- one (Founder of the Little Work of Divine Providence), St. Leonard Murialdo, Mary Help of Christians and Blessed Joseph Kowalski. The Salesian Family represents within it a variety of vocations which reflect the wonderful creativity of the Holy Spirit in raising up charism in the Church and who all have DonBos- co as father. We have a family of Saints and we are grateful to God for such a great variety of ways to attain holiness and for so many models of holiness. May Don Bosco, Mary Help of Christians and all the Saints and Blesseds of our Salesian Family support us in our efforts to be holy and make a difference.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Fr. Ted Montemayor, SDB

Province Calendar

May, 2017

2   TU  Province Finance Advisory Committee, San Francisco @ 5:20
    M embers Board w/ Dinner @ 4:00 PM Salesian, Richmond

4   TH  Provincial Council Meeting, Provincial Residence

5-6   FR-SA  Provincial Council Meeting, Provincial Residence

6   SA  St. Dominic Savio

9-12   TU-FR  ESA, Medellin, Columbia
12-14   FR-SU  Provincial Visitation, St. Bridget Parish, Los Angeles

13   SA  St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello
16   TU  St. Louis Orione
17   WE  M embers Board @ 10:00 AM St. Francis High School
18   TH  Board M embers W/ Dinner @ 1:30 PM, SJB Bellflower
19-22   FR-M O  Provincial Visitation, Corpus Christi, San Francisco

24   WE  Mary Help of Christians
29   MO  Memorial Day
31   WE  Trusts M eetings @ 9:30 AM
Happy Easter from Richmond! Wow, I never thought this year’s Easter would be here so fast. How time flies! Since the last Novitiate Exclusive, there has been a lot of exciting events happened in the past couple of months. Yet, last time in one of our conferences, we said we are almost finishing our ninth month of Novitiate.

I have learned a lot through the experiences this past month, especially the experiences with the Confirmation candidates. End of March and beginning of April’s weekend, with a solid team of young adults and youth leaders, we gave a Confirmation retreat to our Confirmation candidates from St. Ambrose Parish with the theme “Inspiritus” – the breath of the Holy Spirit. The teenagers were invited to be open to let the Holy Spirit work throughout the retreat. With all of the activities, we helped the retreatants to be freely open and reflect on their faith journey especially their relationships. One thing I noticed at the retreat was their relationship between one another had grown more than before. These teenagers walked out of the retreat like a renewed persons, filled with joy and hopefully they will continue to grow on their journey as a confirmed Catholic.

A week after giving a retreat to our Confirmation candidates, we hopped in the van headed to Arizona. We spent a couple days at the Grand Canyon hiking and spending time in nature to refresh and prepare for the Paschal Triduum. After a magnificent experience at the Grand Canyon, we travelled to Scottsdales, Southern Arizona to enter our Triduum at the retreat center runs by Franciscans. The preacher was Fr. Bill Cieslak, OFM, CAP. Each session, Fr. Bill brought us back to the meanings of the Paschal Triduum and prepared us to welcome Easter with joyful hearts. Besides the sessions, what amazed me at the retreat center were the people and especially the liturgies. The liturgies gave me the opportunities to reflect on Jesus’ death and resurrection. For me, the environment of the retreat allowed quiet time throughout the Triduum to reflect on The Cross and the resurrection of Jesus. After the retreat in Arizona, we travelled back to St. John Bosco’s community, Bellflower to celebrate Easter.

After the retreat in Arizona, the big day for the Confirmation candidates at St. Ambrose had come. On Friday of Easter week, Bishop Michael Barber, S.J. Bishop of Oakland Dio-
cese celebrated the Confirmation liturgy. Despite a power-outage, the liturgy still went on. The liturgy was still able to create a prayerful and reflective place for our confirmandi. At the end of mass, the newly confirmed and their families were happy and joyful because their children had just received the Sacrament of Confirmation. I hope these young people will be the witness of Christ as they are the future of the Church.

I am very thankful to be part of the experiences in the last couple months from preparing the retreat and liturgy for the confirmation. Being at the Grand Canyon and we participated in the retreat of Paschal Triduum. This month of May, the month of Mary, I would like to pray that we will build a better relationship with Mary and for more vocations in the Church especially for Salesian vocations through the intercessions of Mary Help of Christians.

Novice Quang Nguyen
The Salesian Oratory originated in 1845 by St. John Bosco, when he gathered a group of youth in the streets and began playing soccer with them. Eventually, he was able to create a comforting environment where they were able to call their home. The word Oratory means: Home, School, Church, and Playground. The goal of the Oratory is to incorporate all four aspects into every Saturday. Playground, in which we organize multiple activities and opportunities for the children to run wild and have fun. Bosco always believed that “a child’s true self is revealed while on the playground.” Church, included by our Sunday Gospel where we read and teach of the word of the Lord, in a way the kids can understand. School, where we create multiple themes and messages to teach the kids, a new one each week. Finally, we create a Home by following the policy of accompaniment over acknowledgement. With said home, we build a family upon one another, where we all love and care for each other unconditionally.

My first time helping with the Oratory was two years ago. I walked in knowing nobody, yet couldn’t shake the feeling of comfort as soon as I walked in. I took it as a training for the upcoming Camp Savio and gave it my all. From day one a young boy came up to me and never left my side. I was left in shock and amazement, because every time I came back I would find him frantically looking around the room for me. I felt loved and appreciated whenever we would be together. He wasn’t the only child I took care of, but he was the one who had left a major impact in my heart and in my life. To this day he still remembers me, and still goes to the oratory. As I watch him grow and progress in life and as a person, he’s also been watching me just the same. It is always hard having to divide your attention to a myriad of different children at once, while giving them all an equal amount. As time progresses, you pick up skills and become better for their sake. For kids and animators (youth volunteers) alike, everyone’s first day or even first year can be nerve wracking. My first year was definitely my toughest, but there is no doubt in my mind that I made the right choice to stay. With due time, the people here begin to grow on you. Before you know it, you find yourself looking forward to each Saturday with excitement.
I’ve been volunteering for the Oratory for three years now, each year going in with the same ambitions: to provide happiness and a home for those who do and don’t have one. Though each week of Oratory consists of multiple meetings to prepare and plan throughout the week, all the hard work and effort to bring everything together is always worth the while. We could be having a bad week or something could be going wrong in the original plan, but these kids will come up to you and make you feel loved. These kid’s love and care make the drive to continue helping even stronger. Savio is my home, and my job is to ensure that it’s a home to all others as well. I love seeing new and old smiling faces, because you end the day knowing that it was you who caused their smile, you who caused their happiness. As once being in their position, I know the volunteers that come change these kids lives. When I stand back and look at the grand scheme of the Oratory, I’m overwhelmed with excitement and joy. Through all the bumps and rocks in the road making the Oratory possible, everything is always worth while knowing that you have the potential to change a life.

Giving back to the community who has given so much to you is a wonderful experience regardless of the work put in. The Oratory doesn’t just change the lives of the children and parents we help, but it can also change the volunteers themselves. From the beautiful children you encounter, to the new people you’ve met and the new friends you’ve made, spending time in the Oratory can impact anyone. Every Saturday is a chance for everyone’s life to take a sudden turn for the better.

At Savio in general, we are major enthusiasts of, “youth serving youth.” Volunteering is something special and praised upon in today’s society, since you seek to gain nothing materialistic from giving your time to those you help. You sacrifice the time of day to assist others in need, simply because you can and have the will to. Helping others and making an impact on the world today are the type of memories you want to make. In the Oratory we create a home school church and playground. We strive to create a comforting environment just as Bosco did in 1845. To the children we care for and the youth who care for them, the Oratory is a beautiful experience and an outstanding chance to change someone’s life.
“(ANS - Vatican City) - “Walk to my presence and be blameless [the Lord said to Abraham]. Full stop! This is the best definition of holiness. (...) Even today one can be holy. There are many saints in the Church, many.” Yesterday, 2 May, Pope Francis granted an audience to the Salesian novices of Pinerolo and Genzano in Rome, together with the pre-novices of the Provinces of Italy and those from Malta, with their formation personnel and the people in charge. It was a meeting full of encouragement to live their vocation and the following of Christ to the full.

Since 30 April, the novices and pre-novices have been meeting for a face-to-face encounter. The young men who will soon make their request to be admitted to the novitiate have a chance to share with those who have already embarked on this experience. The meeting with the Holy Father was planned as part of this programme but was kept secret until the last minute. It was expected to last a quarter of an hour but went on for all of 50 minutes!

Pope Francis responded in a precise and decisive manner to many questions. On the theme of accompaniment in vocational discernment he emphasized that young people “take on their own responsibilities”. He urged them to beware of hypocrisy and mediocrity. Be careful “of those who want to enter a seminary because they feel they are incapable of making it on their own in the world”. Observe the candidates to see “how they pray”: they do not need long artificial prayers, but a prayer that is “simple, but trusting”.

The Pope also explained what he means by the peripheries: the “social” peripheries of the poor, and the peripheries of “thought,” in the dialogue with atheists and agnostics ... In any case, the advice for the Superiors is explicit: “You must send the best to the peripheries!”

In youth ministry, the Holy Father exhorted them to use much “creativity” and to teach them “to help others, the human values of friendship, the family, respect for the elderly” to stem the “culture that discards people”.

Finally, the Pope sent a greeting and blessing to the Salesians and Christians in Syria and promised his prayers for Fr Tom Uzhunnalil, the Salesian kidnapped 14 months ago in Yemen.

Fr Antonello Sanna, Master of the Novices of Genzano in Rome, made this comment: “This was really a beautiful moment of communion with the Shepherd of the Church. It will mark the lives of these young people. It is a welcome gift as we prepare well for the World Day for Vocations and for the Feast of St. Dominic Savio.”
SALESIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SYLC)

Program Director: Bro. Al Vu
Program Coordinators: Gina Robles, Andres Neria
Spirit Team Coordinators: Elizabeth Suarez
Chaplains: Fr. Thien Nguyen, Fr. Tom Juarez
Economer: Bro. Khoa Luong
Conference MC: Bro. James Nguyen, Idaelia Preciado
Spirit Team Adult Animators: Bro. Benito Guerrero
Bro. John Han (CIN)
Damien Ho
Quang Nguyen
Bro. Vien Nguyen

CAMP ST. FRANCIS, APOTOS

Camp Director: Fr. Tom Juarez
Program Coordinator: Fr. Thien Nguyen
Counselor in Training Coordinator: Sean Roche
General Assistant: Bro. James Nguyen
Economer: Bro. Vien Nguyen

Head Cabin Counselor: David McCormick (GBR Volunteer) (13)
Damien Ho (12-11)
Quang Nguyen (10-9)
Bro. John Han (CIN) (8-7)

SALESIAN BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, LOS ANGELES

Bro. Fabian Cardenas
Bro. Paul Garcia

SAN LUIS REY DAY CAMP, LAREDO

Bro. Benito Guerrero
Bro. Gustavo Ramirez

ORATORIES, TURIN

Bro. Peter Le

STUDIES

Fr. Joe Nguyen
Bro. Jhoni Chamorro
Institution of Lectors & Acolytes

By Peter Le, SDB

(Turin, Italy) - During Holy Mass on Saturday, April 18th I was “instituted” Lector along with my first year Theology class companions (part of the journey in view of priestly ordination). The second year group was instituted as Acolytes. There were many visiting provincials, families, and friends in attendance for the celebration. It was a moment of great joy for me to share with my brothers in community and guests at the Crocetta. I am humbled that my superiors accepted me to the ministry of Lector to proclaim the Word of God (in Italian). Thanks be to God!
MAY
SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTION
IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION

FOR SALESIANS IN AFRICA
That, as prophets of mercy, justice and peace, they may know how to educate the young to the social dimension of charity.

Africa, in many countries, continues to suffer serious social problems, such as ethnic divisions, political corruption, the radicalization of the political groups, the lack of equal opportunities for all and freedom of expression. It is part of our commitment to education and evangelization to propose itineraries of faith that will lead our young people to be, in their context, brave citizens who are builders of a more just and fraternal society, credible witnesses of reconciliation and peace.
Cochabamba (Bolivia), March end 2017: The Rector Major presided over the Team Visit to Interamerica Region. At the heart of all these events and meetings there shown the appealing face of Fr. Luigi Bolla, all painted up in the bright colors of his beloved Achuar, with the added dignity of a long white beard. In this month of May, the Provincial of Peru will lead a pilgrimage in the traditional style. He will be carrying with him the mortal remains of Fr. Bolla over land and rivers. The reverent missionary will return from Lima to Kuyuntza, to the beloved land and people where Don Bosco's son had been “all things to all” (1 Cor 9: 22).

“We are burying our dear missionary brother, Don Luigi, once again,” I would like to tell the Salesians during this Bolivian Visit, “but we are careful not to bury also the missionary spirit of our communities and our provinces!” This is the ardent and confident prayer that we place this Marian month in the hands of the Help of Christians at Valdocco: Help us, dear Mother, “let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigour” (see Evangelii Gaudium 109).

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We now have a new edition of the Manual of the Delegate for Missionary Animation (DIAM). It is in the press. However, here are a few tips that could be helpful to our communities:

“Today we are guided by Pope Francis: to live the missionary dimension of our charism means to live our Salesian life in a permanently missionary state always trying to reach out to ‘all the peripheries that need the light of the Gospel’. It is in this fashion that we keep alive our passion for Jesus and his people. It is this that will help us overcome pastoral ascidia, malice and the psychology of the tomb. A missionary heart rediscovers the ‘joy of being Christian, supported by the inner happiness of knowing Christ and belonging to his Church’. From a missionary option comes the "joy of evangelizing". It is this joy that overcomes the “fatigue of faith” and the loss of apostolic dynamism.

“On the other hand, this missionary spirit that every Salesian must live does not exclude, but in reality implies, that there are Salesians with a specific vocation to be a missionary among those who do not know Christ or have abandoned him (ad gentes), outside of his own country (ad exteriores), and through a lifelong commitment (ad vitam).”

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Help us, dear Mother, “let us not allow to be robbed of missionary vigour” (Evangelii Gaudium 109)
My missionary vocation is a consequence and development of my Salesian and priestly vocation. The testimonies of missionaries I came across in person or through my readings in the time of my adolescence were truly provocative ‘voices’. They made me understand the vastness of the boundaries of the Church. They made me realize the identity of the Church as ‘yeast’ in the World. The launch of Project Africa became my opportunity to concretize it. One of my motivations was to make it possible to share with others the happiness that comes from living with the dignity of the Sons of God. He is our Father (Dignity that encompasses and gives meaning to all human rights).

I remember what it cost me to move from Italy to sub-Saharan Africa at the age of 40, the difficulty of communicating, relating with people from a totally different world. The language problem was bad enough .... how much more difficult it was to understand and accept the new ways of looking at life and death. I had to adjust to a new society with the important roles of the elderly, the adults and the youth. I needed to find ways and systems to collaborate with all of them for the education of the next generation. ... I had to accept myself as an ignorant man who had a lot to learn yet. ... I had to be patient with myself and give myself sufficient time to understand what to do and how to do it.

This, however, helped me understand that what the mission needed from me the most was not so much what I could do but the love I could put into relationships. I ought to thank the Lord for filling my missionary life with so many joys. Looking back at all my experiences in my 68 years, I must say that I never could have planned hoped for what my Missionary vocation has given me. I never imagined I could reach such vast horizons, that I could share my life with so many peoples and cultures.

Only my missionary call could have made it possible for me to exercise my priestly ministry in so diverse environments and cultures.

The mission I worked in has given me yet another joy. This is like the happiness of parents when they see their children succeed in life; and the satisfaction from seeing them live by the values they received. The Salesian Province of Adriatica - my province of origin sent me to open the mission at Onitsha. I worked there my first 22 years. This mission has already produced 40 Salesians, two of whom offered themselves to the Rector Major for the “Mission ad Gentes”. Onitsha has the first organized group in Nigeria of Don Bosco Alumni. Out of Onitsha has come the first African volunteer for Don Bosco ...

The missionary lives with the certainty of what the Lord has told us: "I am with you always ...". He is aware of the call to collaborate with Him who wants to be the life, the soul and the joy of the world. The missionary vocation is to make Him Emmanuel: “the God with us”.

Fh. Nicola Ciarapica
Italian, missionary in Nigeria

Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

The Venerable Dorotea Chopitea (1816-1891), the first Salesian Cooperator whose cause for beatification was initiated, a wife, a mother of six children, was one of the very few people whom Don Bosco addressed as ‘mother’. And she really was a mother to everyone - always ready to go wherever help was needed. This “almsgiver of God” sacrificed a fortune as no one else in Barcelona of her days. In her scale of values what came first was the love of the poor: “The poor will be my first thought.”

For Salesians in Africa

That, as prophets of mercy, justice and peace, they may know how to educate the young to the social dimension of charity.

Africa, in many countries, continues to suffer serious social problems, such as ethnic divisions, political corruption, the radicalization of the political groups, the lack of equal opportunities for all and freedom of expression. It is part of our commitment to education and evangelisation to propose itineraries of faith that will lead our young people to be, in their context, brave citizens who are builders of a more just and fraternal society, credible witnesses of reconciliation and peace.
The Making of a Mom

By Sheila Kun, Cooperator

I have been curious about this question: “Why do women have what we call the motherly instinct?” “What kind of genetic make-up is in their DNA that determines these outstanding characteristics of a mom?” In spite of all the advances in science and the genetic field, I have not come across such research studies on the genetic make-up of these females. What is in their XX chromosomes that make these innate qualities uniquely characteristic of moms? Moms are always described by their children as loving, caring, and dedicated to the family. But of all the characteristics, I am particularly most impressed by this phenotype; I am talking about being resilient in tough situations. Allow me to give you three examples of why this trait is so unique to many moms.

I have listened to Fr. John O’Brien’s war stories. He was a Navy Chaplain during the Vietnam War. He told us of conversion stories when the young soldiers remembered their faith and picked up courage to face the ugly war. It was a tough war. Not all of the soldiers made it; Fr. John said many young soldiers, breathing their last breaths, would call out for their mothers. Invariable moms were the persons they missed the most as death was near. They remembered their moms as someone who loved them, comforted them or perhaps could rescue them from the disastrous flight.

Second story; during a retreat, the parishioners were asked to reflect on being grateful. One mom said: “I am grateful because my son who has schizophrenia for 30 years is no longer yelling and screaming. He is responding to his medication nicely. I can sleep peacefully now without worrying about him running away in the middle of the night.” Friends, if I had a son with schizophrenia for 30 years, I would be so resentful and depressed. Why me? Right, why me? This mom never asked “why me?” But she went on dutifully taking care of her son every day. On the good days when her son’s condition is under control, she expresses her gratitude to the Lord. That is resilience. Somehow, when gratitude is partnered with resilience, no one could stop this mom from overcoming all the adversities of this world.

My last story is about a group of moms caring for children with a very rare disease: Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS). CCHS is an autonom-
ic nervous system dysfunction, causing abnormal control of breathing for all. It could always affect all other body systems such as the heart, the digestive system, the eyes etc. Think about the work of caring, monitoring these children on ventilator support or breathing apparatus for 10 hours a night and many on a 24/7 basis! Medication or oxygen therapy is not effective as the treatment. At this point, only mechanical ventilation is the treatment for respiratory failure. I have a feeling in order to survive this life-long ordeal; one has to be very resilient. I have not seen moms with CCHS give up hope. Their resilience is fearless when they hold each other up by forming an international support network, helping each and every one of the families. They are gathering strength by pursuing funding for research, reaching out to whoever that could make a difference in their children’s care.

What is the DNA of these moms? I would like to know which amino acid or protein that makes mom a fearless advocate for her child? We need to clone more moms like these.

As I have mentioned before, the genetic discovery of such a trait (being a mom) is not yet available. Alas, on Mother’s Day, all I can do is to express my deepest appreciation of all of the mothers, especially those with children needing special care. As being a mother has such a wonderful trait, perhaps I can call out to everyone, including men, to be a mother; to have the loving heart and the kind of resilience and toughest that, in the face of bad situations, she is the one that says: “I have not given up on you yet.”

On the occasion of Mother’s Day, this is our call from the Care Ministry: let us be moms to our seniors; love them, fight for them and never give up on them.

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week: adopt a senior, be a mother!

The Care Ministry welcomes your comments/suggestions: kunlouis@gmail.com