Dear Salesian Sisters and Brothers,

Yesterday, the provincial council and I finished our week of planning and reflection up in Lake Arrowhead, at the Neiger cabin/house. I want to thank the council for their hard work and keeping each other focused on our task. Of course, being away together for a week, also allowed us time to share, pray and get to know each other better. It was a wonderful week and I feel we accomplished much.

The week of reflection and planning began with a day of quiet and reflection on the book, Start With Why by Simon Sinek. Each of the council members had received a book some days before we met. Simon Sinek also has several videos on TED.com. Simon’s premise is that many of us begin with what we can do or are doing or how we are different from others. But, very few can articulate the why we do what we do. Why is the thing that inspires us and inspires those around us. Sinek mentions Martin Luther King, Jr, Steve Jobs and the Wright Brothers and shows how they started with the “Why,” with a dream or vision. Simon shows that the leaders who inspire all think, act and communicate in the exact way. When our “Why” is clear it generates passion. Steve Jobs was a passionate man with an organization that was very clear on its “why.” And, their why was not to build good computers. Others did that too. Yes, Apple built and builds good computers but the passion and why was to change the world, to be of service to humanity. And, they also build very good computers. Very few people or companies can clearly articulate the WHY they do what they do. Making money, for a company, is the result. By WHY is meant, what is the purpose, cause or belief? Why does your organization exist? Why do you get out of bed every morning? And, WHY should anyone care?

Think of the organizations, companies, institutions (Religious or secular) that capture our heart and imagination. Many of us are attracted to the WHY. It is what gives your organization passion. Apple wanted to challenge the status quo and to empower the individual.
This “why” comes to life in all they do. It is Apple’s clarity of WHY that gives them such a remarkable ability to innovate, often competing against companies seemingly more qualified than they, and succeed in industries outside their core business.

We Salesians are called to live out our WHY. The Constitutions of our Religious Congregation and our Province Mission Statement tell us clearly that we are sent by Christ to be like Don Bosco, signs and bearers of God’s love to the young, especially, those are poor and most in need. Oh, and by the way, we also run good schools, parishes and clubs. That is the what and how we carry our mission to be signs and bearers of God’s love for the young, especially, those who are poor and most in need. Our Salesian Preventive System is the how we do it. But, the clarity of the WHY is to be signs and bearers of God’s love for the young. As we reflect on this WHY we are led to our Organic and Pastoral plans which fleshes out the Why.

As we begin our summer ministries, let us reflect on our Why! Yes, we will run great camps, have wonderful plans to help our young people have fun and learn new things. Great! But, we do all of this so that we can be “signs and bearers of God’s love.” Nothing less and nothing more! That is our Why! The next few weeks will be busy weeks for our province. Next week (all in one week) many of our confreres will be at Three Rivers for their annual retreat preached by Fr. Juan Jose Bartolomé. At Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley, representatives from our Schools (new teachers and administrators) will be participating in the annual SES (Salesian Educational Seminar). The week takes our educators through a series of workshops, discussions, reflections and educational processes that focus on our Salesian Preventive System and the WHY we do what we do. And, in Aptos, at Camp St. Francis, our young leaders will be living their SYLC (Salesian Youth Leadership Conference) week. All in the same week. Many other sites will be having training and formation camps for their youth leaders who will work in our summer ministries. I will try to visit all the sites, celebrating Masses and greeting participants. Please keep all these events and people in your prayers. May our efforts and energy of preparation bear much fruit in helping us live out our why with passion and clarity.

Summer is a time that brings many visitors to our province. Not only do others from different parts of the world want to visit California but some are participating in our ministries. Let us be as hospitable as possible. May we be true examples of hospitality and brotherly kindness. May we be true signs of God’s love for them and our youth.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Fr. Ted Montemayor, SDB
A WORD OF ADVICE FROM SAINT JOHN BOSCO

"Fly from bad companions as from the bite of a poisonous snake. If you keep good companions, I can assure you that you will one day rejoice with the Blessed Mother in Heaven; whereas if you keep with those who are bad, you will become bad yourself, and you will be in danger of losing your soul."

Saint John Bosco

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<th>June, 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>4-10</td>
<td>SU-SA</td>
<td>Arrowhead Days, Arrive 3:00 PM</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>Bl. Stephan Sandor</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>FR</td>
<td>Board Meeting, Bosco Tech, Rosemead, @ 10:00 AM</td>
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<td>18-23</td>
<td>SU-FR</td>
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<td>19-24</td>
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<td>St. Joseph Cafasso</td>
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| July, 2017 |
|------------|-------|
| 4          | TU    | Independence Day |
| 7          | FR    | Bl. Maria Romero Meneses, FMA |
| 9-11       | SU-TU | Provincial Council Meeting |
|            |       | Provincial Residence, SF |
| 17-21      | MO-FR | SUE-SUO Directors’ Workshop, Berkeley |
| 30-4       | SU-FR | Retreat, San Juan Bautista |
SAN FRANCISCO - Deacon Alvin Yu, an Alumnus of Saints Peter and Paul Church, the Laura Vicuña Pre-K, Saints Peter and Paul School, and the Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club was ordained Priest on June 10th by Archbishop of San Francisco Salvatore J. Cordileone. Father Alvin Yu’s First Mass on Sunday June 11th at Saints Peter and Paul Church, SF. Also, Sunday, July 2 at 1:00 PM, he will celebrate Mass in the Extraordinary Form (a Latin High Mass.)
Alvin Yu

Age: 27

Birthplace: San Francisco
Home parish: Sts. Peter and Paul
Schools attended: Sts. Peter and Paul, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory; Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion, San Francisco State University
Parents: Wing Tim Yu (deceased), Teresa Yu
Siblings: Edgar Yu

What do you most look forward to as a priest?
I look forward to celebrating the holy sacrifice of the Mass, administering the sacraments, offering spiritual direction, and meeting and getting to know the people at the parish.

Who most inspired your vocation and why?
The Salesian priests at my home parish were a big inspiration for me. They were very dedicated in their ministry, and would make regular visits to the school to teach us catechism and to play with us in the schoolyard. I was also inspired by my great-uncle, now deceased, who was a priest, and the many priests who I have come to know throughout the years.

What sports do you play and/or enjoy to watch?
Baseball, basketball, football, soccer

What type of music do you enjoy?
Popular music, Gregorian chant, sacred polyphony

What are one of your favorite Bible passages?
Galatians 2:20. “... yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.”

What is the greatest challenge facing the church today?
Evangelizing in a relativistic and secular culture.

Who is your favorite saint?
St. John Bosco

What role did your family play in your vocation?
My family and I went to Mass together on Sundays and holy days. My grandmother also taught me how to pray at a young age and also taught me basic catechism when I was growing up.
Fr. George Williams, SDB leaves us at the age of 101

(ANS – Manchester) – Fr. George Cuthbert Williams, the former English Speaking Region Councilor, passed away on June 6, 2017, at the age of 101 years. He was born in Wallasey, on May 26, 1916, as the only child of George Frederick and Teresa Williams. After secondary school studies, he attended Liverpool University where he read Chemistry, and was later awarded a Ph.D. He was an Associate of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. In 1940, he was appointed to the Ministry of Supply, a UK governmental office where, as an Experimental Officer, he was involved as a research chemist working on wartime firearms, ammunition and explosives. In 1946, he was admitted to the Salesian novitiate in Beckford and made his First Profession in 1947.

He studied Theology at Crocetta, Turin and was ordained to the priesthood in 1954. All reports speak of him as a man generously self-sacrificing in his work, pious and conscientious. In the GBR Province, Fr Williams was a Teacher, Prefect of Studies and Rector at Shrigley, Rector at Cowley, Oxford and a member of the Provincial Council. He was appointed Provincial in 1964. In 1970 he was appointed Rector of the Don Bosco Community at the UPS, Rome.

From 1971 to 1983, Fr Williams served as the General Councillor for the English Speaking Region, which also included many of the present EAO countries. He remained at the General House, Rome, until 2002 where he assisted in the work of translation from Italian to English of many important Salesian documents including the SDB Constitutions (ed. 1984).

He returned to the GBR Province to live in retirement at Stockport and Bolton, St Joseph’s. He celebrated his 101st birthday with his Salesian confreres with joy, an accolade which established him as the oldest member ever to have lived in the history of the GBR Province! After a short illness, he died in hospital in Manchester.

“Fr Williams was very strong in his devotion to Mary Help of Christians and to Don Bosco. He found great comfort and strength in visiting Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and in the daily celebration of the Eucharist. To the loving mercy of God, we commend the repose of his soul,” says Fr. Kieran Anderson, SDB, Provincial secretary of the Province of Great Britain.
Calling All Teachers!

Attend a one week professional development workshop this summer - at no cost to you!

Don Bosco Technical Institute | Rosemead, CA | August 7 - August 11, 2017

Who Should Attend?
- High School Teachers: Science (especially Chemistry and Physical Science), Engineering, and Industrial/Career and Technical Education
- Middle School Teachers: Physical Science
- Pre-Service Science Teachers
- Art, Math, and Community College Teachers as space allows

Why Attend?
- Learn how to engage your students using simple, low-cost experiments that you can integrate into your existing lesson plans
- Help your students discover career opportunities in science and engineering

What's Included:
- 4 CEUs, demonstration materials, lunches & snacks

Graduate Credits Available:
2 graduate level credits are available through the University of Missouri-Kansas City (optional)

Schedule:
8:00am - 5:00pm - Monday - Thursday
8:00am - 3:00pm - Friday

How to Apply:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8XRC7JB

Questions?
Jeane Deatherage, Administrator of Foundation Programs
jeane.deatherage@asminternational.org; 1.800.336.5152 X 5533
www.asmfoundation.org

This workshop is made possible by the generous financial and in-kind support of:

IN TOUCH • June 11, 2017
Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

RICHMOND, CA - June 3rd, 2017

The Salesian College Preparatory Class of 2017 graduated in style from the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Saturday, June 3rd at 11:00 a.m. This fifty-third graduating class distinguished themselves by their academic accomplishments as over 67% of the class received either First or Second Honors. They were accepted into all 9 of the UC campuses, into 17 of the 23 California State Universities, and colleges or universities in 26 of the 50 states. In fact, the Class of 2017 will make their mark in 26 states around the country. The Class of 2017 also reflected a wide variety of talents including singing, acting, music, athletics and community service.

Congratulations to the Salesian Class of 2017

The administrators, faculty and staff of Salesian College Preparatory are proud of you and welcome you to the alumni family! We wish you the best as you go off to college and pursue your passions. We offer you our blessing for the future. Go Pride!

James Abilar
Teniola Adegbite
Jessica Aguilar
Ashley Ahlenslager
Adryanne Angat
Armando Barajas
Isabel Barba-Perez
Jordan Barram
Alexi Ivy Basas
Haylee Bauer
Kemahni Booze
Montana Branch
Molly Brannick
Naja Krisette Briones
Nikolaus Calarco
Kobi Calhoun
David Capune
Maria Isabella Carrasco
Tariq Chang
Naomi Clark
Chase Concon
Langston Conley
Eugenio Coronel
Amara Correal
Sahara Damon
Emilio Davalos Gaylord
Chloe Dichoso
Dewayne Dixon, Jr.
Samantha Domingo
Jazmin Esteban
Stanley Fernandes
Christina Fortenberry
Alexander Franklin
Gabriel Friet
Patrick Gallagher
Yailine Garcia
Arianna Gilmour
Jorge Gomez
Madison Gunter, IV
Jiarun (Gerran) Guo
Kaimau Hankins
Joe Helfrich
Christopher Hernandez
Kathleen Hernandez
Jaqueline Jackson
Nathaniel Jackson, Jr.
James-Stephen Kraynik
Christian Latorre
Jenna Meora Lazo
Mary Leamy
Makayla Leonard
Jocelyn Letcher
Yixiang (Mike) Li
Joshua Manio
Alexander Manrique
Zarah Maroof
Umika Mathur
Keila McFall
Robert McMaster, Jr.
Reina Mejia
Sophia Mejia
Justin Reian Mercado
Regina Miyamoto
Raymond Molinar, III
Cameron Morgan
Lauren Ong
Sebleh Owens
Ariana Penate
Alondra Peregrino
Kiara Pereira
Alison Perez
Tatiana Pinkston
Kara Marie Pomer
Olivia Rhone
Stephan Rios
Jaime Rodriguez, Jr.
Gerald Rodwell
Alexander Rosete
Devin Shaughnessy
Sierra Smith
Angeline Lizelle Tengco
Ily-Ryanne Thompson
Sarabi Tostado
Heather Tran
Jaylen Tregle
Amy Vanvilay
Christian Vargas
Emily Velez
Neha Venkatesh
Phuong Vo
Nicholas Walker
Carlyn Wisherop
Ke’mare Wright
Xiaoming (Neil) Xie
Jessica Renaee Yamul
JUNE
SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTIONS
IN THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2017

For Salesians Who Work in Conflict Areas

That they may be Builders of Peace through the weapon of “education” and the proclamation of the “Prince of Peace”.

Salesians are present in many areas of the world where there are military, social, political, ethnic, and religious conflicts, often manipulated by commercial and business interests; interests that have no compassion on the innocent, or the weakest. The mission of the Salesian Family in these areas is to be free, prophet and builder of peace with the tenacity of education for coexistence and human dignity, supported by the One who “is our peace”.

...and they remained with us

SALESIAN MISSION DAY

INTOUCH • June 11, 2017
SALESIAN MISSIONARY INTENTIONS
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In the month of March, Yapacarai (Paraguay) hosted the Team Visit to the Region of Cono Sud in Latin America. This programme was colored by the fraternal memory of the red blood of our Salesian Missionary Don Rodolfo Lunkenbein. Right up to his martyrdom (Meruri - Brazil, July 15, 1976) he was accompanied by his young and faithful collaborator, Simone Bororo. 40 years on, the process was launched for the recognition of their martyrdom. “Rodolfo and Simone, life for life!”, are the powerful words of the hymn composed for this occasion. It is becoming a popular tune in all the Salesian Provinces of South America.

There are many who preceded us. They sowed, and they watered with their blood and sweat, the seed of a new life in Jesus Christ as incarnated in the Salesian charism. Preserving their memory is a sure means to keeping alive the missionary spirit of the Congregation. They too, as the theme of the Salesian Mission Day 2017 says, “stayed with us!” Don Bosco continues knocking at the heart of so many young Salesians of all continents who are ready to leave everything, to go and “stay with them”... Ad vitam, forever!

Fr. Guillermo Basanes, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

From 23rd to 31st April Salesian Missionary America met at Cachoeira do Campo (Belo Horizonte - Brazil) to find practical ways to live and announce the Initial Proclamation of Jesus Christ in the various sectors and environments of the Salesian mission. 72 SDB and FMA from the whole of the Americas reflected together on the theme. They were enlightened by the synthesis of the results of the eight regional seminars that were held on all continents over the last few years. They dwelt on the wealth of our Preventive System, as well as other pastoral experiences of Initial Proclamation outside the Salesian context. Participants shared their concrete experiences through several workshops. They reflected on criteria and made operational choices for the animation of their provinces. They proposed creative ways to be tools of Initial Proclamation in schools, youth-centres, urban parishes, social services, indigenous communities, and among children and teenagers at risk. All this was bathed in a climate of rich spirituality through reflection on the Word of God. There was an enriching experience of Salesian family spirit. Each DIAM (SDB) and Coordinator of Missionary Animation (FMA) made plans for the replication of the seminar and practices. Just like the 72 disciples of the Lord (Lk 10: 1), these 72 SDB and FMA were sent forth to all the provinces and nations between the United States and Chile to bring the Good News to all of our Salesian presences.
The stories of missionaries have always fascinated me. After some experiences in the missions of Guatemala, I had a ‘missionary distress’ during my postnovitiate. I spoke of this with my spiritual director, my confessor, and especially with missionaries. After all, these missionaries had one day lived this same anxiety and today are the bearers of this charism in our province. Above all, I prayed. I knelt before the tabernacle. My fingers rolled over my rosary beads. I asked the Lord for clarity in his call, the courage to answer, and the love to make it a reality. The counsel that impressed me most was that of Don Checchi. He smiled and said, “My dear, if you’ve already placed your life in the hands of God … enjoy His dreams. Let Him do the driving. Let Him take you to the kids He has thought of for you. Love His voice. Love what he has planned for your life. I assure you, you will be happy that you trusted Him.”

Some of my confreres were more rational. They said, “Why go out? We have such a lot of work here itself?” True, there is a lot to do. It is also true that the Congregation is one, the world over. Young people as well as confreres are waiting for us everywhere. If the vineyard is of the Lord, He should be the one to distribute His workers. It is ours to do what He asks of us, with the love He gives us, where He wants us and sends us. And then I thought … if the first Salesians did not risk what they had to go beyond, how would we ever have come to know God, Don Bosco and our vocation?

Urged on by the desire to serve the Lord, I made myself available and, in 2015, I was sent to Kosovo in Albania. There I faced a totally unexpected reality. I had got used to thinking of missions with their churches overflowing with believers. I had not imagined myself landing up in a completely Muslim village. There I was, sharing the joy of being a missionary with two confreres and 18 Catholics!

My very first difficulty was to give up the idea that I had had till then of the missions. I had to try and understand what the Lord was offering me. Add to that the difficulty of the language and my ignorance of Islam. I found myself faced with a real challenge. Only the help of my brothers and sisters gave me the courage to understand and to carry on. How much joy I have discovered since then in letting me be surprised by the presence of God in the boys around me. Their questions, our discussions, and the way we have listened to each other, are today the joy of my heart. They are my gratitude to God for my missionary vocation. I think it will always be so, that the most beautiful blessing from being a missionary will be the young and the confreres.

I believe that to be a missionary is part of our Salesian DNA. From going out to the streets to find boys, to leaving our country for God’s love, our vocation gets greatly enriched. We live life in its fullness when we make God’s dream our dream, His youngsters our boys, His calling our life. So if God wants you to be a missionary, let yourself be guided by his love and go where the young people are waiting for you: I assure you there will be no greater joy in your life!

**Giuseppe Liano SDB**

*Guatemalan, missionary in Albania - Kosovo*

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**Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity**

The Servant of God Matilde Salem (1904-1961) did not have an easy married life, tested by God, among other things, also by her inability to bear children. She developed her maternal identity by being at the service of orphans and those in need: "These will be my children forever, as well as all others whom the Lord will make me meet in my life." She worked tirelessly so that the Salesians could open a house in Aleppo (Syria). Afflicted at the age of 54 by a terrible tumour, she made the supreme offer - her life itself: "My God, I offer my life for the unity of Christians, the sanctification of priests and the prosperity of Salesian work."

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**Salesian Missionary Intention**

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INTOUCH • June 11, 2017
I am approaching the subject of weight gingerly. Why? I don’t want people to think that I am critical of you just because you might be on the “heavy” side. I want to have a deeper understanding of weight and how that affects your health. For the coming weeks, we will unravel how our weight could change our health and more importantly what can we do about it. I dare not offend you by making broad statements about weight or obesity. Hence I was extremely happy to come across this website “Weight Matters” in their introductory statement about why weight matters. It begins with an opening statement which reflects my belief and my motivation to begin our conversation on weight.

The issue of weight matters to people in many different ways. It evokes many different emotions and can often be difficult to talk about with your healthcare provider, spouse, friend, loved one or others.

The most important reason why weight matters is because of your health.

There are many health implications that accompany excess weight, such as diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea and others. Sometimes weight can even affect emotional health as well. It is not uncommon for someone dealing with weight issues to be affected by depression or a lack of self-confidence.

Gaining excess weight and realizing the health implications is not always the easiest thing to recognize. In fact, most Americans do not realize that they are affected by excess weight or obesity, or even at risk for weight-related conditions. This is why it is so important for you to realize that YOUR WEIGHT DOES MATTER!

Let me begin by going into the physiological component of a fat cell this week. From Wikipedia in its definition of Adipocyte: Adipocytes, also known as lipocytes and fat cells, are the cells that primarily compose adipose tissue, specialized in storing energy as fat.

I thought it would be fun to do an informal survey of “kids” from different age groups and find out what they see in their dads that give them an indelible impression in life. The survey was conducted verbally and in a very friendly, non-threatening environment. I just asked them: “What are the two things that you like in your dad?” These are the people I know, or work with. Interestingly, they represent a diversity of ethnicity, gender and religious belief. I decided to ask the question from different age groups so that I have a good sample of perspectives from different generations. Here are their stories.

Infant: babies are pre-verbal; they cannot tell me how they feel about their dads. However, I can observe from babies their body language. Vivid in my mind is the picture of a crying baby, screaming at the top of his lung. But as soon as dad picks him up, like an eagle picking up the chick, he nestles calmly in the strong, muscular arm.

In no time, the baby falls asleep soundly. If the baby can talk, he probably would say, “Dad, thank you for being there when I am tired.”

10 years old: “My dad is really cool; he picks me up from school and drives me to violin lesson. We just finished a school trip together to the Grand Canyon. My dad is so much fun to be with.” The dads in this generation tend to spend time with their kids and literally be part of their life growing up. Their PRESENCE is very strong in every aspect of their life.

20 years old: “My dad is smart and pretty driven; he always strives to be the best of whatever he does”. What a great example this dad gives to his kids – doing the best you can in all the circumstances. We cannot ask for a better dad!

Sound Bites from the Kids on Father’s Day

By Sheila Kun, Cooperator
30 years old: “My dad is very responsible. He works hard to raise the family. He shares his life experience a lot. When I was little, I used to hate his lectures and lessons in life. But as I grow older, I realize he has passed on life experiences that are so valuable. I will never close my ears with my hands again”. I am sure growing up, especially in our rebellious teenage years that the “nagging” would seem so annoying, but then later on, we will do the exact same “nagging” because these are valuable life experiences.

40 years old: “My dad is very sensitive to our feelings. He would describe a negative situation in a positive way so that the lessons learned are not hurtful, and these teaching moments are opportunities to do better.” Don’t we all need gentle hands to guide us?

50 years old: “My dad is very honest and thoughtful, especially when it comes to family matters. He lives the life of credibility and dignity. He always speaks the truth.” To be faithful and truthful to his family is so incredibly beautiful!

60 years old: “My dad had gone through two world wars. There were tough times just covering the every basics for the family. He worked two jobs, never complains. The family is his priority.” This is a very familiar story for the older generations who had weathered through depression, and recently only a decade ago with the financial crisis in our country. Our dads handled the financial adversities with humility and dignity.

70 years old: “My dad is a very honest and generous person. His generosity goes beyond the family. I remember him taking in refugees from China in the 1950’s and providing them with shelter – our living room. Many men and women spent months and years in our humble house until they were able to be independent on their own. We were white collar folks. But dad did whatever he could to help others.” This is my own story, this is my dad.

I hope you will be able to summarize the beautiful attributes of our dads from this survey. My head is still buzzing with such words as PRESENCE, HONESTY, INTEGRITY, RESPONSIBILITY, GENEROSITY, FAMILY CENTERED MAN, HARD WORKER, and THE ULTIMATE PROTECTOR OF THE FAMILY.

To all fathers: Happy Father’s Day. YOU DESERVE TO BE VERY PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE!

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week: Reflect on the attributes of your father and how he influenced your life.

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