Dear Salesian sisters and brothers,

Tomorrow we begin the month of October. October is a month which the Church dedicates to Mary with a special emphasis on reciting the special devotion of the Rosary. October is also called the month of the Holy Rosary.

October has been designated as the month of the Rosary and of Mary based on an ancient event and victory which took place on October 7, 1571. The Church chose that day because back in 1571 the Church in Europe faced a great challenge. The Muslim Turks had already conquered the Middle East and had forced many to turn to the Islam religion. Many others had been killed. The Turks then moved across the Mediterranean Sea and had their sights on the Christian Kingdoms of Sicily, Venice and Rome. Pope Pius V called on the Christian nations to defeat the Islamic threat. He also encouraged all to pray the rosary, to undertake special processions and public recitation of the Rosary, asking for the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

During a famous battle, the battle of Lepanto, the Christian forces were able to drive the Turks away and Christian Europe was saved from their invasion. Pope Pius V attributed this victory to the intercession of Mary and the praying of the Rosary and established an annual commemoration to honor Our Lady of Victory. Pope Gregory XIII, Pope Pius’ successor, decreed that the first Sunday in October would be the feast of the Holy Rosary. It was a way of giving thanks to our Blessed Mother for the victory in the Battle of Lepanto. From that one day of October 7, the Church later extended this “Thanksgiving” to include the whole month.

We Salesians are familiar with Don Bosco’s strong devotion to Mary and to the Eucharist. In writing to his Salesians about our Congregation, Don Bosco wrote: “The principal objective [of our Congregation] is to promote veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Mary Help of Christians. This title seems to please the august Queen of Heaven very much.” On May 14, 1862, Don Bosco dreamed about

**October Birthdays**
- Fr. Marc Rougeau, SDB 5th
- Br. Jerry Weirich, SDB 5th
- Br. John Rasor, SDB 7th
- Fr. Steve Whelan, SDB 14th
- Br. Vien Minh Nguyen, SDB 17th
- Fr. Joe Boenzi, SDB 27th
- Fr. Al Petsun, SDB 28th
- Br. Jhoni Chamorro, SDB 30th

**Pray For Our Sick**
- Fr. Lucian Lomello, SDB
- Br. Jerry Weirich, SDB
- Br. Pat Maloney, SDB
- Fr. Armand Oliveri, SDB
- Fr. Arthur Lenti, SDB
- Fr. Jack Gibson, SDB
the battles the Church would face in the latter days. In his dream, the Pope of those days anchors the ‘ship’ of the Church between two pillars, one with a statue of Mary Help of Christians and the other with a large Eucharistic Host.

Yesterday, September 29th, Pope Francis invited all the faithful of all the world to pray a Holy Rosary daily during the entire Marian month of October. The Pope asks for the intercession of the Holy Mother of God and Saint Michael the Archangel to protect the Church from the devil, who always seeks to separate us from God and from each other. We know that there is evil and division around us and prayer is the only way we can defeat the evil one. Constitution 92 of the rules of the Salesian Brothers and Priests says, “We develop a strong filial devotion to her (Mary). We recite the rosary each day and celebrate her feasts to encourage a more convinced and personal imitation.”

I encourage the entire Salesian Family to follow this beautiful devotion of saying the Rosary on a daily basis, especially, during this month of October. The Church is being challenged by different forces that seek to divide, to harm and destroy. We Salesians are also undergoing many difficult challenges throughout the world. Let us pray for each other. In his invitation to all the faithful to pray to Mary during the Month of October, the Holy Father invoked this most ancient and beautiful prayer to Mary called “the Memorare.” It is a powerful prayer and it goes like this:

“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother! To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.”

During this Month of October, we also remember other wonderful models and saints: Blessed Albert Marvelli, Lay Person, Blessed Alexandrina da Costa, Salesian Cooperator, St. Louis Guanella, Priest and Founder of the Servants of Charity, Blessed Michael Rua, who succeeded Don Bosco as Rector Major. We also remember other very popular saints: Therese of the Child Jesus, the Holy Guardian Angeles, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John XXIII, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Visitation Order founded by St. Francis de Sales), St. John Paul II and many others, some who are directly connected with Canada and the United States. May these saints intercede for us and inspire us to imitate them as models of humanity and holiness.

Tomorrow I travel to San Francisco for the week and will return to Los Angeles for the Provincial Council’s meeting with the Provincial Council of the Salesian Sisters of the West, the Anniversary celebration of our Jubilarians and our regularly scheduled Provincial Council meeting for October. As always, I ask for your prayers as the provincial council moves forward to make some difficult decisions and navigate our province into a stronger future. May Mary continue to guide us and take us by our hand.

With warm regards and gratitude,

[Signature]

INTOUCH • OCTOBER 2ND, 2018
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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,
ayúdalen 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. Dominic Savio Parish
Salesian Oratory at Savio

By Anthony Thomas
Salesian Oratory Volunteer

On September 8th St. Dominic Savio started oratory! A program where young people, Salesians and FMAs can grow together during a day of gospel, cooking, sports, and arts & crafts!

The Salesian Oratory started September 8th and will continue throughout the year until April! Every week the Salesians in formation are here to facilitate this beautiful Salesian tradition that started with Don Bosco. Their presence among the young people is the perfect environment to cultivate vocations.

If you want to be apart of our oratory just come on down every Saturday from 12 PM - 4 PM. Let’s continue Don Bosco’s tradition!
Salesian College Preparatory has announced the school has received a $5,000 STEM grant from the Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) thanks to the school’s science teacher, Dr. Lida Antonian.

The grant will fund hands-on learning equipment in the field of renewable energy to embolden the learning experience for students taking physics courses at Salesian, school officials said.

“Project based learning in the field of renewable energy will better equip our graduates to handle college coursework as well as be exposed to possible internships in energy-related industries,” Principal Marylou Flannery said in a statement thanking the Toshiba America Foundation.

The Toshiba America Foundation funds projects designed by individual classroom teachers in the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and inquiry-based approaches to the curriculum.
St. John Bosco High School
Tickets now on sale for the Fall Production of "The Boys Next Door"

By S. Rocha

The place is a communal residence in a New England city, where four mentally disabled men live under the supervision of an earnest, but increasingly "burned out" young social worker named Jack. Mingled with scenes from the daily lives of these four, where "little things" sometimes become momentous (and often very funny), are moments of great poignancy when, with touching effectiveness, we are reminded that the disabled, like the rest of us, want only to love and laugh and find some meaning and purpose in the brief time that they, like their more fortunate brothers, are allotted on this earth.

Come and join the students of Saint John Bosco High School and Saint Joseph's High School as they bring this story to life.

Tickets are currently on sale for all performances. The show opens Friday October 12 at 7:30 p.m. with performances October 13, 18, 19, 20 at 7:30 p.m. and October 14 and 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Saint John Bosco Theater. Tickets are $13.

To purchase your tickets visit https://bosco.ticketleap.com/
Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, S.D.B.
Visits Salesian College Preparatory

By Fr. John Puntino, SDB
Salesian College Preparatory Community

On Thursday, September 20 Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil spoke to Salesian College Preparatory’s senior class about his 18 month ordeal as a hostage in Yemen. On March 4, 2016 gunmen attached a care home run by the Missionaries of Charity in Aden killing 16 people including four of Mother Teresa’s sisters and taking Fr. Tom to an unknown location. Released just over a year ago, he now resides at the Salesian provincial house in Bangalore, India and travels around giving talks.

While Fr. Tom related his experiences, Fr. Shalbin Kalancherry, Salesian mission procurator for Bangalore who is accompanying Fr. Tom, showed slides related to the Missionaries of Charity work that was attacked on that fateful day as well as scenes from the war that is still raging in Yemen. At the slide of the four slain sisters Fr. Tom spoke briefly about each one and how the fifth sister escaped detection.

Displaying a sense of peace as he spoke, Fr. Tom clarified some misconceptions about the abduction, gave details of his treatment as a hostage and explained his daily prayer routine which helped him maintained reliance on God. He has no animosity toward his captors and simply and sincerely speaks of the goodness in all persons no matter from what faith tradition they come.

During the question and answer time he was asked if he would return to Yemen. His reply sums up the spirit in which he spoke and by which he lives. He is perfectly willing to go wherever his superiors wish to send him.

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OCTOBER
Salesian Missionary Intention
In the light of the Holy Father’s prayer intention

For Salesians and other consecrated persons of the Salesian Family

So that the consecrated persons of the Salesian Family may awaken their missionary fervour and be present among the poorest.

The Salesian Family is made up of thousands of consecrated persons, who are an opportunity and a power for evangelization. We pray that in every continent they may know how to live their vocation with passion and radiate the joy of loving the Lord and the little ones.
As we study Sean D. Sammon, FMS’ webinar on Intimacy, Loneliness and Solitude for the last three weeks, we have come to the understanding that loneliness is the perception of being alone and isolated. In order to understand the feeling of isolation, we need to explore the definition of intimacy. The feeling of intimacy and isolation are almost mutually exclusive to each other. If you have formed healthy intimate relationships with others, the threat of isolation and loneliness would diminish. Let us take time to understand the concept of intimacy. The following words could mean and define intimacy in its own situation; closeness, togetherness, affinity, rapport, attachment, familiarity, friendliness, friendship, amity, affection, warmth, confidence etc. As these descriptive words imply, intimacy is not just the sexual relationship between husband and wife. Sean, in the webinar, stressed that the most common form of intimacy is friendship. Intimacy begins with a very bold question to yourself: “Am I sure enough of myself as a person, at home sufficiently with whom I am that I can risk closeness with you?” Indeed, before you can ask this question, you need to know who you are. This goes back to our previous discussion of establishing self-esteem and self-identity. A mature intimacy relationship per Sean, has to deal with the situation of feeling that you are drawn towards self-disclosure and at times are held back due to caution and selectivity. He went on to say it is okay to be selective in choosing whom you want to be closed to. A genuine intimacy relationship is the product of the ability to self-disclose of who you are, and not be afraid to let people know of your true self; this is the vulnerability aspect of that genuine intimacy relationship. If the feeling is mutual, then true intimacy can be formed.

Friendship is the most common form of intimacy. That is an experience that all of us have. For a friendship to develop, there must be some way in which my friend reaches a part of me that is not accessible to others. Simply put, you would share your problems with friends and not strangers. Friendship depends upon the ongoing emotional bond between me and my friend. Friends choose to stay in touch, they do not have to stay in touch. Friendship links us as emotional confidants.

The beautiful thing about friendship is that it allows me to relax my well-guarded stance toward the world. Friends are not frightened by my weaknesses, so I learn to be “at home” with them myself. After learning about this part of the webinar, I could reflect on how powerful friends are in shaping our lives. If I have selected friends that I can trust, I can pour my hearts out with no reservation, knowing they would be good listeners and would not put me down. In my book, true friends are priceless!
Greetings!

De Sales Hall is no longer a canonical community on its own. It is part of the canonical community of St. John Bosco. The ministries of the Salesian community includes St. John Bosco High School, St. Dominic Savio Parish and De Sales Hall.

De Sales Hall includes the following offices, ministries and roles…

**Coordinator of Vocations**
Fr. John Roche, SDB  
(562)925-2250 ext. 205 | jrochesdb@gmail.com

**Delegate for Social Communications**
Mr. Andres Neria  
(562)925-2250 ext. 217 | andres@salesiansf.org

**Delegate for Youth Ministry**
Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB  
(562)925-2250 ext. 219 | melsdb@salesianym.org

**Program Coordinator of Candidacy & Prenovitiate:**
Fr. Itchan Laygo, SDB  
(562)925-2250 ext. 213 | itchan31@gmail.com

**Youth Ministry Associate:**
Ms. Gina Robles  
(562)925-2250 ext. 203 | gina@salesianym.org

**In residence & members of formation team:**
Deacon Fabian Cardenas, SDB  
Fr. Joseph Farias, SDB  
Fr. John Roche, SDB  
Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB

Any questions on youth ministry in general, including resources, parish support, and youth center support, contact Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB.
Any questions on Social Communications, including InTouch and the province website, contact Mr. Andres Neria.
Any questions on Vocation animation, including retreats, contact Fr. John Roche, SDB.
Any questions on SES, school support and networking, contact Bro. Al Vu, SDB at (415) 619-9796.
Any questions on SYLC and Camp St. Francis, contact Ms. Gina Robles.
For use of the facilities, including guestrooms at De Sales Hall, contact Ms. Gina Robles.
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