A MESSAGE FOR THE PROVINCE

Dear Salesian Family,

First of all it is important to clarify that Fr. Ted Montemayor, our Provincial, is fine and well. In our attempt to give different perspectives from the leadership of the province I, as Delegate of Youth Ministry, has the honor to greet you on this issue of InTouch.

As Church we are in the first week of the Synod of Bishops 2018, with the theme “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” At the opening of the Synod on October 3 Pope Francis gave an address to the assembly. Two things stood out for me from this address of Pope Francis. The first was his gratitude to the young for their presence in the preparation and in the Synod itself. He addressed the young by saying that the Synod is “worth the effort to feel part of the Church and to dialogue with her; worth the effort to have the Church as a mother, as a teacher, as a home, as a family, and, despite human weaknesses and difficulties, capable of radiating and conveying Christ’s timeless message… and “Your participation fills us with joy and hope.”

The second was his message that the Synod is a moment of sharing and an opportunity to journey with the young. He stated that “humility in listening must correspond to courage in speaking” and that “a Church that does not listen shows herself closed to newness, closed to God’s surprises, and cannot be credible…”

As the Pope invited and challenged the participants in the Synod to journey with young people, I invite and challenge us to accompany the young in their daily life. With a humble attitude of listening and with gentle but courageous words of encouragement and guidance we can celebrate with joy their successes and accomplishments and we can help unburden, like Christ, their experiences of sadness, grief and failures.

Next week, from the 15th to the 20th of October, I am participating in the gathering of the Delegates of Youth Ministry in our InterAmerica region. The agenda includes not only reflections and responses to the proposals coming from the Synod of Bishops 2018, but also our region’s continued efforts to work together in the issue of migration especially as they affect poor young people. As your Delegate I hope to bring our Province’s hopes and dreams and our interventions on behalf of the young, including those who are undocumented. Pray for us and be assured of our prayers for you.

In Christ and in Don Bosco,
Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB

In Christ and in Don Bosco,
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 la 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
Don Bosco Technical Institute

College Fair 2018

By Karen Krynen
Communications Officer

ROSEMEAD, CA—August 27, 2018

Don Bosco Technical Institute (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. “Being informed and planning ahead are crucial in making the right choices about colleges and degree options,” said Ray Chavez, Bosco Tech’s director of counseling. “Bosco Tech’s extensive college fair provides students with the opportunity to meet representatives from top schools, both public and private, in one convenient location. It’s the perfect setting for young people to ask questions, gather information, and explore their options.”

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.

The event is sponsored by the Princeton Review. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and gourmet food trucks will be on site. Register to attend at www.boscotech.edu. For more information, contact Ray Chavez at rchavez@boscotech.edu, or Academic Counselor Paul Ortiz at portiz@boscotech.edu. The school is located at 1151 San Gabriel Boulevard in Rosemead.

The Princeton Review is a leading tutoring, test prep, and college admission services company. Every year, it helps millions of college and graduate school-bound students achieve their education and career goals through online and in person courses delivered by a network of more than 4,000 teachers and tutors, online resources, and its more than 150 print and digital books published by Penguin Random House. For more information, visit: www.princetonreview.com
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/
Preferential Option for the Poor
Serving youth at risk

By J.C Montenegro
Coordinator for Youth Ministry

To better accompany all the provinces in the world, the Salesian Congregation has divided itself into seven Regions. We form part of the Inter America region along with 13 other provinces. Our Region starts in Canada and goes all the way down to Bolivia. At this moment the Regional is Fr. Tim Ploch, SDB.

The goal of the region is to accompany the provinces. To do this there are meetings to help the development of the provinces, for example the Provincials meet once a year, as well as the Youth Ministry Delegates. There are also meetings with the Mission Animation Delegates, Social Communication Delegates, Formation Delegates, and other key leadership positions in the province.

There is one group that has met for the past 20 years, this group is called Preferential Option for the Poor, and they have been doing a great job keeping records of their meetings. The main objective of this group is to find the way to better serve children at risk.

In this article you will find two pictures

1. An infographic with all the countries and meetings they have had in the past twenty years

2. A picture that shows how many social works we have in our region.

As a Salesians we are call to work with the children at risk and this is an example of what we have done in America!
We have 193 works dedicated to serve at risk youth in the region.

**Rome - Italy 1998**
- Network
- Formation

**Leon - Mexico 2002**
- The Good Shepherd goes to the encounter of the children
- New context of poverty
- Permanent accompaniment
- Youth as the protagonist

**Ayagualo - El Salvador 2004**
- Team work with YM Delegates
- Define of the Regional team

**Los Teques - Venezuela 2001**
- OP Promotion in the EPC

**Medellín - Colombia 2006**
- The labor education in Youth Ministry

**Quito - Ecuador 2003**
- Process systematization
- Develop formation programs
- Link with the family
- Network
- The Volunteer
- Sustainability

**Santa Cruz - Bolivia 2008**
- 08-14 Strategic Plan
- Process Professionalization
- Initial and permanent formation

**Lima - Peru 2010**
- Corporative Image
- OP Province Plan
- Stages of the educative process
- Province evaluation

**Puerto Príncipe - Haiti 2014**
- 15-20 Strategic Plan
- Educator profile update

- Team work continuation
- OP Book edition
- Stages of the formation process

**Bogotá - Colombia 2018**
- Infographic creation
- Characterization of types of works
- Nonprofits present at the meeting
- Review 15-20 Strategic Plan

**Bogotá - Colombia 1999**
- Coordinate, share and project OP work

**Ayagualo - El Salvador 2004**
- Team work with YM Delegates
- Define of the Regional team

**Medellín - Colombia 2006**
- The labor education in Youth Ministry

**Santa Cruz - Bolivia 2008**
- 08-14 Strategic Plan
- Process Professionalization
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S.N.A.C - USA West
Salesian North America Council - USA West

Bottom Row (Left to Right): Sr. Roble Cavazos, Fr. Tho Bui, Sr. Rosann Ruiz, Sr. Vuong Do, Sr. Thuy Nguyen, Fr. Thomas Prendiville

Top Row (Left to Right): Fr. John Itzaina, Fr. Mel Trinidad, Sr. Debbie Walker, Sr. Barbara Campbell, Fr. Ted Montemayor, Sr. Sandra Neaves, Sr. Lourdes Treviño, Br. Al Vu
Anniversaries Celebration Mass
St. Dominic Savio Parish, Bellflower
Our missionary eyes and hearts are turned towards the Synod of Bishops, towards the youth of the whole world. The Successor of Don Bosco is there, participating in this XV Ordinary General Assembly. With him, the whole Congregation is present too. This is not a time of waiting nor of curiosity for the “news” that may emerge. For us it is already a time of “pastoral and missionary conversion”. The whole of Evangelii Gaudium of Pope Francis as well as the Strumentum Laboris of this Synod (see Part III) focus on this conversion, “which cannot leave things as they are” (EG 25). The originality of this missionary transformation is that the Holy Spirit, who “makes all things new”, wants to implement it now through the young, through their voices: “we want to express our request for a transparent, welcoming, honest, attractive community - communicative, accessible, joyful and interactive” (SL 67).

The young confreres who are sent forth each year ad gentes, ad exterios, ad vitam and the Rector Major has just sent 16 practical trainees at the 149th Missionary Expedition! - are also a clear and powerful voice that invites the whole Congregation to this missionary conversion. Courage!

Transmitting the faith to the ends of the earth: You too, young friends, by your baptism have become living members of the Church; together we have received the mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. You are at the threshold of life. To grow in the grace of the faith bestowed on us by the Church’s sacraments plunges us into that great stream of witnesses who, generation after generation, enable the wisdom and experience of older persons to become testimony and encouragement for those looking to the future.

And the freshness and enthusiasm of the young makes them a source of support and hope for those nearing the end of their journey. In this blend of different stages in life, the mission of the Church bridges the generations; our faith in God and our love of neighbor are a source of profound unity. This transmission of the faith, the heart of the Church’s mission, comes about by the infectiousness of love, where joy and enthusiasm become the expression of a newfound meaning and fulfilment in life. The spread of the faith “by attraction” calls for hearts that are open and expanded by love. It is not possible to place limits on love, for love is strong as death (cf. Song 8:6). And that expansion generates encounter, witness, proclamation; it generates sharing in charity with all those far from the faith, indifferent to it and perhaps even hostile and opposed to it. Human, cultural and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel of Jesus and to the sacramental presence of the Church represent the extreme peripheries, the “ends of the earth” to which, ever since the first Easter, Jesus’ missionary disciples have been sent, with the certainty that their Lord is always with them (cf. Mt 28:20; Acts 1:8). This is what we call the missio ad gentes. The most desolate periphery of all is where mankind, in need of Christ, remains indifferent to the faith or shows hatred for the fullness of life in God. All material and spiritual poverty, every form of discrimination against our brothers and sisters, is always a consequence of the rejection of God and his love.

The ends of the earth, dear young people, nowadays are quite relative and always easily “navigable”. The digital world - the social networks that are so pervasive and readily available - dissolves borders, eliminates distances and reduces differences. Everything appears within reach, so close and immediate. And yet lacking the sincere gift of our lives, we could well have countless contacts but never share in a true communion of life. To share in the mission to the ends of the earth demands the gift of oneself in the vocation that God, who has placed us on this earth, chooses to give us (cf. Lk 9:23-25). I dare say that, for a young man or woman who wants to follow Christ, what is most essential is to seek, to discover and to persevere in his or her vocation.

Bearing witness to love: I am grateful to all those ecclesial groups that make it possible for you to have a personal encounter with Christ living in his Church: parishes, associations, movements, religious communities, and the varied expressions of missionary service. How many young people find in missionary volunteer work a way of serving the “least” of our brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40), promoting human dignity and witnessing to the joy of love and of being Christians? These ecclesial experiences educate and train young people not only for professional success, but also for developing and fostering their God-given gifts in order better to serve others. These praiseworthy forms of temporary missionary service are a fruitful beginning and, through vocational discernment, they can help you to decide to make a complete gift of yourselves as missionaries.

FROM THE MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS, FOR THE WORLD MISSION DAY 2018

INTOUCH • OCTOBER 10TH, 2018
I’M DON ANGELO REGAZZO, 75 YEARS IN AGE. WHEN I WAS IN THE THIRD GRADE, AT THE AGE OF 8, OUR TEACHER SHOWED US A MISSIONARY DOCUMENTARY. WE WATCHED A BLACK MAN EAT A LIVE ANIMAL. IT WAS SIMPLY DISGUSTING! THE TEACHER THEN ASKED US POINT-BLANK: “WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THIS MAN?” I REPLIED: “WE COULD COLLECT WASTE PAPER AND SCRAP METAL, SELL THEM AND SEND THE PROCEEDS TO THE MISSIONARIES.” “BRAVO, ANGELO! BUT THERE IS AN EVEN BETTER WAY AND THAT IS TO BECOME A MISSIONARY.” BULL’S EYE! “I WANT TO BE A MISSIONARY!” I TOLD MYSELF FIRMLY, NOT KNOWING WHAT IT MEANT TO LEAVE THE FAMILY AND THE COUNTRY, TO BE A PRIEST ...

In early September 2018, I celebrated with great joy my 58 years of Missionary Life. If I were to be reborn 1000 times, I would walk the same road 1000 and one times! It is too good to give one’s life for the most emarginated ones! At the age of 17 I sailed from Genoa to Thailand. They made us do the Novitiate in a forest, preceded by a Jungle survival course in the style of Rambo, because we were surrounded by wild beasts and poisonous snakes. The roles were reversed now and it was me eating raw animals in place of that man in the documentary ...

The biggest challenges? Learning new languages, absorbing different cultures and the distance from one’s own country. I returned to Italy for the first time only after 8 years. Philosophy and English in Hong Kong, Theology at Cremisan (Israel), Priestly Ordination in Italy and then again to Thailand but, still, no black man in sight! Finally, Fr. Egidio Viganò went to the East in search of ‘Volunteers for Project Africa’ and I raised my hand: “Present!”

Destination Makallè, Ethiopia, from where Project Africa took off in 1975. From then there were as many black children as I could wish for! In 1984-85 there was the great famine in the Tigray with 1.4 million deaths. Cesare Bullo (Bud Spencer) and I (Terrence Hill) led the rescue operations.

In 1996 I was sent to Eritrea to open a new Salesian presence with a large technical school at Dekemhare and a study house at Asmara. Given the great need for water I made about forty wells. I made some prefabricated schools for the villages around Dekemhare. In 2008, I was expelled from Eritrea along with 22 other missionaries. I returned to Ethiopia and started caring for the street boys of Addis Ababa and that’s where I am now. One of the street boys, a Muslim, invited Don Dino and me to his baptism. He had secretly attended Catechism classes given by the Consolata Fathers. After Baptism he told us: “And now I want to become a Salesian.”

“Take it easy! Why do you want to be a Salesian?” I asked him point-blank. “I know what you have done for me. I want to do the same for many other friends of mine on the streets.” The JOY I experienced was simply indescribable! I am sure that, one day, this boy will be the Director of the Bosco Children Centre.

Have you heard his CALL? Do not lose time! Just follow it! HE will make up for your weaknesses.

Don Angelo Regazzo,
Italian missionary in Ethiopia and Eritrea
How often do you hear about other people describing what kind of a person you are? Perhaps, if you are a professional in a formal conference or presentation, you could be introduced with your resume of your educational background, your past experience and the related contribution to the professional work. Even then, this is only the professional side of you. What about the description of you as a person? Well, most likely you will hear that in eulogies; “He is a good father, a great mentor and a person with humor…” I did not realize that there is such a thing as self-intimacy until I reviewed the webinar presented by Sean D. Sammon, FMS.

What is self-intimacy? Sean D. Sammon, FMS defined self-intimacy as a virtue of which I grow in awareness and acceptance of this particular person I am becoming. While seeking to understand of whom the person that I want to become, we have conflicting, ambivalent, unresolved elements inside. In shaping ourselves, sometimes a transformative change in life would propel a change of heart, or to follow a call to be more tolerant in forming our strengths or understanding our weaknesses. In another word, we can shape ourselves through this conversion in life. Self-intimacy invites me to be a reassessment of my life. There are three options in this task:

1. Try to bury past disturbances.
2. Seize feelings of blame or guilt and give oneself over to the process of punishment of others or of self.
3. Confront blame or guilt as an important initial phase of interior invitation – forgiveness.

These points are important as we transition through life changes; we forgive what we have done and being able to change to the next life plan. We explore new possibilities for what we are in the new role, and employ the new elements of that role in a positive way. An example for seniors is the retirement stage. We need to recognize how to manage our time in such a way that it brings new learning and experience. Retirement is not a time to stop, but perhaps, it is a time for us to try new things that we never have time for. I am beginning to look at new skills that I have never developed; gardening, memorizing new songs to stimulate my brain and watching more Chinese programs from Chinese channels to brush up on my Mandarin. Thus far, I am having successes in all these areas. I have grown a new plant called Ashitaba, scallions and ginger. They perked up readily with some observation of whether they like the sun or water. I never knew that I could grow something. This pleasant surprise prompted me to think that the key to success is never to say no to new experiences. “Just try it and you will like it.” This sounded like mom telling us kids to try new food when we were young. In many ways, seniors are like kids. Give yourself permission to be young again – learn something that you have never imaged that you would try. So “create” a new you. Do an inventory what your life should be. This is definitely an anecdote to loneliness. Loneliness is the experience of not being at home with one self. Loneliness often accompanies low self-intimacy.

Your homework assignment for this week from the Care Ministry:

Do an inventory of “who you are” and ask: “Am I doing a good job as a Salesian?”
COSTUME CONTEST

Be creative, appropriate, and have fun with your Halloween costume or shirt. There will be a prize for the best Halloween costume and the best Halloween shirt!

DANCING  SINGING  SNACKS  PRAYER

SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT INVITES YOU AND YOUR YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS TO OUR NEXT YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

OCTOBER 26TH, 2018
7:30 PM @ DE SALES HALL, BELLFLOWER

Please RSVP with Enrique Diaz by October 19th.
Cell: (562) 526-4054

DE SALES HALL
13856 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90706
"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