Dear Salesian Family,

This week I follow Fr. Mel in sharing another aspect of our province life: our schools. The transition from animating youth ministry to coordinating our schools for me has been a seamless one. I follow in the great footsteps of Mr. Bill Goodman, who continues to serve in a consultatory manner and helps me navigate this first year in this new role.

Since stepping into this job over the summer, much has occurred. Guided by our Provincial Organic Plan and our Province Educative Pastoral Plan, we began with a gathering of key leaders of our schools to reshape and redefine the formation of our educators in our schools, in particular those who are new this year. In that meeting we were able to map out a rubric that can be used to accompany our new faculty and staff and introduce them to Don Bosco, our Salesian charism and educational philosophy. During those days of reflection and planning, we also committed to run a similar retreat to begin the new academic year.

As part of a commitment to journey together and build a common system of schools, this past week, the same group of leaders gathered to continue the work of developing a systematic formation Part of the systematization is also reviewing our Province Standards for Salesian Schools. This process began in the mid-90s under the leadership of Fr. Joe Boenzi and key laity of the time. Now with the newly revised Frame of Reference for Salesian Youth Ministry and taking into account the national standards for Catholic schools, the work to update our province standards in key to creating the structures that is needed to sustain the system we are proposing, which will hopefully move us to becoming more intentional with how we serve our young people.

Also key to the structure of our system of schools is the important role of the Coordinator for Youth Ministry. Time was spent reviewing the current realities of our school CYMs and what is needed to make that role an integral part of the animation of the educational and pastoral project of the school. Over the next year, we will be giving more clarity to this role and create the structures that will help ensure the importance of this role in animating our schools. It is exciting that we are moving together in this direction of systematizing our schools. In many ways this work is what the Rector Major is calling the entire congregation to in our preparation for the 28th General Chapter. The kind of SDB that is needed for the young of today is one that is be able to share the mission with the laity.

I am incredibly grateful that we have so many lay people who continue to want to share this mission with the SDBs. It is evident that this is one of the strengths of our province. But at the same time, we have much work to still do in order to heed the challenge of the Rector Major for GC28: “to continue with ‘giant steps’ using all the apostolic potential that we have, Salesian and lay, in the shared mission; being bold in identifying what until now has not allowed us to develop to the full the prophetic vision that our Congregation has had and which will be decisive for the development of the mission, of the pastoral impact of the Congregation and of the quality of the consecrated life of all Salesians, as consecrated persons ‘more free from’ and ‘more free for’ just like the Lord Jesus.” (AGC 427)

Please continue to pray for this work that is being done. In this month of the rosary, let us entrust to Our Lady our ministry of schools, and in particular, all of the educators and students. May her intercession help us become more united in bringing our young people closer to our loving God.

In the Lord’s service,

Bro. Al Vu SDB
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 Jesús,
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, ayudales 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
I am incredibly grateful that we have so many lay people who continue to want to share this mission with the SDBs. It is evident that this is one of the strengths of our province. But at the same time, we have much work to still do in order to heed the challenge of the Rector Major for GC28: “to continue with ‘giant steps’ using all the apostolic potential that we have, Salesian and lay, in the shared mission; being bold in identifying what until now has not allowed us to develop to the full the prophetic vision that our Congregation has had and which will be decisive for the development of the mission, of the pastoral impact of the Congregation and of the quality of the consecrated life of all Salesians, as consecrated persons ‘more free from’ and ‘more free for’ just like the Lord Jesus.” (AGC 427)

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In the Lord’s service,

Bro. Al Vu SDB

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Don Bosco Technical Institute

**BOSCO TECH CO-HOSTS SOUTH SAN GABRIEL-ROSEMEAD PREPAREDNESS COALITION EMERGENCY FAIR ON OCTOBER 20**

**By Karen Krynen**

**Communications Officer**

ROSEMEAD, CA-October 12, 2018

Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will join forces with the American Red Cross, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and several other San Gabriel Valley organizations for the South San Gabriel-Rosemead Preparedness Coalition Emergency Fair on Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Bosco Tech campus. The complimentary fair will offer practical workshops sponsored by experts from Cal Tech and the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, to name a few. Critical information will be provided on preparing for potential future disasters and ways to protect oneself, loved ones and pets. Fair guests can try out an earthquake simulation room and learn CPR. Several emergency command vehicles will be available to explore, and kids’ preparedness activities and give aways are planned.

“We’re pleased to help our community become more knowledgeable in preparing for possible disaster situations,” said Bosco Tech Principal Xavier Jimenez. “The fair, and our collaboration with the Coalition, the Red Cross and L.A. County, are extensions of the school’s long-standing commitment to serving the residents of the San Gabriel Valley.”

The school is located at 1151 San Gabriel Boulevard, Rosemead, 91770. Parking and fair attendance are free. In addition to the American Red Cross and L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, South San Gabriel-Rosemead Preparedness Coalition members and sponsors include City National Bank, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Eraxtyle Design, Evergreen Baptist Church, Office Zilla, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, TZU CHI, University of the West, Workforce Development Aging & Community Services, and Bosco Tech.

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, including the Biological, Medical & Environmental Technology (BMET) program that starts during Fall 2019. On Niche.com’s list of top boys high schools and Catholic high schools in California and the U.S., Bosco Tech boasts a college acceptance rate of 100 percent, with the majority of graduates pursuing STEM-related post-secondary majors and careers.

Visit www.boscotech.edu.
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/
We start a new school year and with this beginning comes a new invitation to live every single day with a motto. This year, Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, through the central message delivered in his Strenna, invites the entire Salesian family to respond to God by being who we are and by being holy. At Salesian College Preparatory we want to reach holiness, and being cheerful. Our Strenna is the foundation of making every moment of school a time to grow together in holiness, and share with one another moments of true jubilation. I am Brother Jhoni Chamorro, SDB, and this year I am teaching religious studies to freshmen students. I am filled with great joy for the opportunity not only to teach this new group of young people at Salesian, but to journey with them in the adventure of Salesian holiness and happiness. The days of our Triduum helped me to understand that one of my biggest goals is to help the freshman connect with the Salesian family in feeling welcome. I also want to make certain that every lesson I deliver follows the famous words of Don Bosco, “Education is a matter of the heart.” I certainly believe with all my heart that these words from our founder can be fulfilled!

Hello! My name is Juliana Orellana and I am a senior at Salesian College Preparatory. I was extremely excited to start the new school year because coming to Salesian feels like home! I get to meet new people that join our school and see old friends. Every year Salesian has a special theme and we relate and have activities that go with this theme for the whole year. This year’s theme is “Be Happy, be Holy.” We celebrated this by having our Triduum. It first started out with a guest speaker, Sean Bryan, who came to talk to us about following your dream and being happy while doing it. Next, we had a school wide faith family picnic. It was so nice to see all students eating and having a fun time within their faith families. It was an opportunity for students to bond with others from different grades and get to know each other a little more.
We ended with by participating at Mass. At Salesian we celebrate these activities as a family because that is what it is all about, incorporating school, church, and playground all in one. I am excited to continue with this theme to see what other activities we do to bring us closer together! #iamsalesian

My name is Sebastian Franco, I am a 17 year old senior attending Salesian College Prep in Richmond, California. I am very thrilled to have kicked off my senior year already. I am very surprised to actually be experiencing my final year of high school, although it seems surreal. Nonetheless, I am filled with excitement to find out what the rest of the year holds in store for me and my fellow classmates. So far, one of the more notable parts of the school year has been our Triduum, where we celebrated the essence of what it means to be a Salesian. Beginning on Wednesday, a speaker came and talked to us about how our faith can be incorporated in what we do day to day, and how he does so himself. Then, on Thursday, we gathered with our faith families, and shared a meal together in our annual faith family picnic. We each made a contributions to the meal itself, which helped each of us bond with our faith families. Lastly, on Friday we ended the week by uniting as a school community and celebrated Mass together, which concluded our Triduum for the year. This year, I hope to fulfill the year’s motto, “Be Happy, Be Holy.” I feel like it is important for me to do so not only because it is the last mark I will leave on the school, but because those things are the most important things, along with family. This is so because I think that happiness is extremely important in my life, and the healthiest way to be happy is to act holy, and have a strong relationship with God. Because of this, I really value the motto, and I am proud to say I have a great place to help me achieve this amazing milestone at Salesian College Preparatory.

My name is Alanis Caballero and I am currently a junior at Salesian College Preparatory! My journey at Salesian has been an amazing and thrilling roller coaster ride. From the deeply devoted staff to the commited students, our school is a warm, welcoming place. Our school reflects our country’s diversity and plethora of cultures. The respect for God and devotion to him is something that stands out from the rest. Our Triduum was centered around the idea “Be happy be Holy.” Our guest speaker reinforced the idea of being happy while maintaining holiness by doing to do the things he loves (while stillhaving a strong relationship with God),
By breaking bread and going to Mass together, we unite and become one student body. Activities such as the faith family picnic, really unite people who may not have known each other before. The sharing of food and laughter bringing people together is what the Triduum is all about!

My name is James Mariano and I am a sophomore attending Salesian College Preparatory. To start, this school year has been quite marvelous, unforgettable and filled with such exciting events. These events include the Triduum Mass, faith family picnic, family barbeque, and many more events awaiting us this year! These events allow the students, faculty, and staff to bond and grow with one another. Our school’s new motto “Be Happy Be Holy” works hand in hand with the students. We are finding ourselves concluding that happiness comes from holiness thus making us come to the realization that we must be holy in order to experience true happiness.

My name is Piera Miller and I am a senior at Salesian College Preparatory. As I am wrapping up my time here, I have learned and grown so much with the Salesian family. Because we focus on school, church, home and playground we really get an understanding of it during our Triduum. During those few days at school we host a faith family bbq, hold our first school-wide Mass, and have a speaker come talk to us about our theme of the year. “Be Happy, Be Holy” was really emphasized throughout that first week because the faculty wanted us to understand what it truly meant. The speaker talked about being a strong believer and how, no matter where you are or what you are doing your faith does not have to be compromised. We then focused on being happy and holy as a school by breaking bread together and sharing the Eucharist. Activities and school-wide events like the Triduum really bring the student body together as a family and I am still amazed by how close each grade level gets to know each other.
I am Corey Ott a fellow graduate of Salesian College Prep in 1997, this will be my 13th year as a Salesian educator. Raised in a Baptist Church and attending a Catholic High School forever changed my life. Salesian is unique in its acceptance and openness to everyone, from every walk of life. The diversity of our student population beautifully blends together in an atmosphere fostered by the loving kindness Don Bosco created so many years ago. So as Every year I am so excited to be a part of these young people’s journey. Being a part of the Salesian family makes it easy to live out this year’s theme of, “Be Happy, Be Holy”.
The Salesian Family Youth Center has been working really hard to create a 3 year Pastoral Plan for the organization. Last weekend over 15 staff gathered together to analyze the situational analysis done a couple of weeks ago. This analysis resulted with some action steps proposed for the next 3 years. Part of this pastoral plan was to choose our new club logo! In future InTouch issues we will present our Club’s pastoral plan and logo!

If you would like more information, do not hesitate to contact:

Jc Montenegro
jc@salesianclubs-la.org
Salesian Cooperators
Taco Fundraiser for Homeless Ministry

By Louis Kun
Salesian Cooperator

Activity from St. Joseph’s community:

Inspired by Pope Francis, Cooperators at St. Joseph’s in Rosemead recently sponsored Taco Fundraising to support our Homeless Ministry including Retreats for our brothers and sisters. It was a huge success and our Cooperators are now planning our next one in the near future.
Salesian Schools
Formation Curriculum Meeting
Sts. Peter and Paul parish celebrated the eighty-third feast of Madonna del Lume, Mother of Light on Sunday, September 30th. This tradition of honoring the Blessed Mother under this title dates back several hundred years when fishermen lost at sea off of the coast of Palermo, Sicily followed a mysterious light that guided them to the shore, after being lost in the night fog. The faithful men were on their knees praying the rosary for a safe return to the shore when this Light appeared. The light was said to have emanated from a slab of marble on the shore which the fishermen brought to the village. The next morning, the slab was once again at the shore which they took as a sign that the Madonna wanted a church to be built in her honor at that very spot, where it stands today. When immigrant Sicilian fishing families emigrated to San Francisco (as well as Milwaukee, San Diego, and South America) from the village of Porticello, Sicily, they brought with them their faith in the Madonna, that she would keep them safe, stay faithful, help them to prosper in the New World. In return, these families have never forgotten their gratitude of their past and have kept hope for the future by each year in early October honoring our Madonna, Mother of Light. Of course, we understand that their theology was and continues to be correct since Jesus is the Light of the World.

On a personal note, this writer descends from this village and its people and has been honoring her during the festa as a young “fisherman,” later as an altar boy assisting the “never to be forgotten” Fr. Joseph Costanza, SDB, then, as a flag bearer, and finally as an organizer of the festivities. Seen in the picture is another beloved Salesian, and former pastor, Fr. Armand Oliveri, SDB who attended to the Blessing of the Fishing Fleet (part of the festivities) for many, many years. This year’s queen is Paloma Polacci (a grandniece of mine shown behind our good Father). It gives all of us great pride of our children, and hope for the future to see several past and future queens and present “fisherman” embracing our heritage and our faith. In recent years, our own Fr. Al Mengon, SDB has been leading the charge making sure that our Salesian Family stays involved in this wonderful tradition.

In closing, please join me in proclaiming, Viva, Madonna del Lume, Viva!
Aretha's classic hit, the return of Respect Life Month, and discussions on J. O. Y. (Jesus, Others, and Yourself) all merged together to form a backdrop for our St. Luke's October Retreat weekend at Camp St. Francis in Aptos. Weather was outstanding, the food was great, and Camp St. Francis, as always, was the perfect setting for a good retreat. In a world where respect is often in short supply, our retreatants were challenged to learn to better respect themselves and deepen their respect for their families, their friends, and even those labeled as “ kinda weird,” “different,” or “outsiders.” They also had some quiet time to reflect on the respect and appreciation we show (or sometimes fail to show) towards God. Saturday night included a ‘Respect’ Stations of the Cross, opportunities for confession, and time of adoration. The night ended with celebration; group charades, board games, and three birthday cakes (Happy October birthdays, Ashonti, Jimmy, and Fr. Marc.) Our thanks to Br. Mike, Fr. Marc, the priests from Watsonville and Aptos, our cooks, Jimmy & Debbie, and our peer and adult staff. Special thanks to our 3 retreat directors, Jaryn, Roy, and Claudia who took advantage of their SLYC experiences to enhance the retreat experience.
Loneliness –
Loneliness and Intimacy (Part 6)

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

I never realized that the subject of loneliness is not an easy subject to understand. I am so glad that we took the time thus far to understand what loneliness is and how intimacy and solitude play key roles in shaping our perception. Last week we tried to define ourselves of who we are, and what resources we have to stay connected. This week we will locate the source of loneliness.

Sean D. Sammon, FMS, from his webinar eloquently pointed three key elements of loneliness closely associated with the virtue of self-intimacy:

1. Loneliness occurs when I am alienated from my own resources.
2. Loneliness is characteristic of people who are not at home with themselves.
3. Loneliness is the plight of those who fail to find, become, and assert themselves.

These are avid examples of how you could find yourself, seemingly all by yourself, with zero connecting to significant others. The root cause of this feeling is having no specific purpose in life, you just survive, quite oblivious of the developmental stages in life. If I have to insert my personal interpretation of your loneliness problem, I would begin by saying that you don’t understand your own existence; what is your mission in life, and how do you define yourself, and what is important to you.

If you don’t declare yourself of who you are, how can you find meaningful relationships to establish intimacy with friends. Friendship is the most common intimacy. If you are not at home with yourself, friendship would not flourish. Sean said that self-intimacy is the Christian virtue that strengthens us to overcome envy as well as loneliness and depression. In his webinar handout, this statement was written in bold letters. In another words, you need to appreciate yourself, you know who you are, and you are willing to be honest with yourself and your significant others to form meaningful relationships. It begins with “I appreciate my life.”

Moving forward, another important step to rebuttal loneliness is the concept of solitude. Solitude is necessary for self-intimacy. Why is solitude essential? Solitude allows us to be “at home” with ourselves, skeletons and all. The fruit of self-intimacy, experienced in solitude, is the ability to be alone – I do not need to clutter my life with busywork or activity. I probably should print this last sentence in bold. Let me repeat – the fruit of self-intimacy, experienced in solitude, is the ability to be alone – I do not need to clutter my life with busywork or activity. This statement is pretty profound and real. Just think about our seniors who could not keep up with a busy schedule or activity. Should they feel lonely? The ability to be alone without feeling lonely is the product of a very mature self. You know who you are, you know your situation; you know how to change your perception in life into possible energy and thoughts. In most of the situation, you cannot change reality (like being diagnosed with a chronic illness). However, your ability to transcend the reality of being stuck in a hospital and feeling sad for yourself necessitate the experience of a lifetime. It takes the sound foundation of your self-esteem, self-intimacy to allow your friends and significant others to enter into a new phase of your life that might not be the most pleasant. Yet you have the courage to drop off all self-pity and move on with the attitude of “what do I need to do to sustain a meaningful relationship with my friends and families and most important of all, with my Lord given my limitation?” Next week we will venture into interventions and strategies to combat loneliness while we are challenged with declining health.

Your home work from the Care Ministry this week:

Pose this question to yourself: “Can I handle being alone by myself?”

The Care Ministry values your input: kunlouis@gmail.com
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