A MESSAGE
FOR THE PROVINCE

Dear Salesian Family,

Yesterday we remembered St. John Paul II. Perhaps his resounding call to young people is a reminder for all of us: “Do not be afraid!” He urged them in every encounter not to be afraid to be saints, to “fly high, be among those whose goals are worthy of sons and daughters of God. Glorify God in your lives!” We are blessed in Pope Francis who reiterates that call telling young people to “be courageous in following Christ!”

For young people to be courageous, they need the witness of committed followers of Jesus to inspire and guide them. They need invitations from their parents, from their teachers, from their coaches, from their parish leaders, their pastors, and their Salesians. An invitation needs to be consistent with the witness that they see in all of these people for it to be effective. In fact, Christian Smith who led the research on the National Study of Youth and Religion at the start of this century has concluded most recently that young adults today who have the greatest chance of clinging to their faith are those whose parents relate well to them and have offered a consistent example of a practicing faith in their own lives.

Since July, a group of wonderful volunteers have met monthly at the Salesian Vocation Office to help plan outreach to more and more young people especially in their parishes, schools, and youth centers. Their contribution has already contributed much to the urgent need to extend that invitation to follow Jesus. They have followed up on the creation of vocation lists sent to each director, pastor, and CYM. Their task has been to remind each of the Salesian presences in the province to take a moment each month to identify young people to be invited. That list is carefully divided into focus groups: past pupils and graduates, current leaders in ministry, etc.

The Vocation Team has investigated funding for incoming candidates to religious life. They have brainstormed other means of funding young people to come to retreats, to attend Salesian events, and to cover their educational debts. Some of these have even been put into practice. I joined them in reaching out to the growing list of young people who have inquired about religious life writing personal cards to such inquiries.

In September, I attended the City of Saints Days at UCLA conducted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles targeting their high school youth in the archdiocese. It was on the advice of one of these team members that I go, not with a booth, but simply to hear confessions and be present to the young people. I did just that. And believe me, I heard confessions from 7:30 AM to midnight for two full days. I did meet many young people. I did suggest vocations to many both inside and outside of the confessional. One of those young people reached out, has attended Br. Peter’s profession, the Salesian Anniversaries, and has been an amazing apostle among his own family convincing his father to come back to confession and return to Church. This young man continues to discern religious life with us and is looking into diocesan priesthood as well and all of this because of a chance encounter.

Perhaps the words of St. John Paul II should be directed to us in the Salesian Family: “Do not be afraid to follow Christ!” It is Christ we serve! He will never abandon us! I urge all the members of the Salesian Family to be witnesses to hope and invitation so that young people will want to follow our pathway and learn to know Jesus and the life-changing mission he has for each of them.

Your brother is Christ,
Fr. John Roche, SDB
Don Bosco Technical Institute
Bosco Tech Co-Hosts Community Preparedness Fair

By Karen Krynen
Communications Officer

Bosco Tech joined 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 Oct. 20 on the Bosco Tech campus.

The complimentary fair offered practical workshops sponsored by experts from Cal Tech and the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management, to name a few. Critical information was provided on preparing for potential future disasters and ways to protect oneself, loved ones and pets. Fair guests tried out an earthquake simulation room and learned CPR. Several emergency command vehicles were available to explore, and kids’ preparedness activities and giveaways were offered.

“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.”

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.

Hard-working coalition members were recognized during the fair by Assembly member Ed Chau for their outstanding efforts to educate and prepare our community.
The St. John Bosco High School community invites you to join us as we take an evening to honor our deceased loved ones on Thursday, November 1, from 5:00-8:00pm.

The event will feature a Prayer Service, altar displays, food vendors, an art exhibit, and live music. Hope to see you there!
Fr. John Lam, SDB led 490 St. Bridget parishioners and friends in celebrating the 79th Year Anniversary of St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church.

Bishop Edward Clark, Salesian Directors Fr. James Nieblas and Fr. Steve Way, Fr. Tom Reynolds representing the Columban Fathers, two council members from the sisters of St. Joseph of Orange: Sister Sue Dunning and Sister Mary Elizabeth with Sister Maria Lai, Sister of Social Service: Sister Michele Walsh and Sister Rachel Shepard and many priests, brothers and Sisters were our Honorary guests.
Fond Memories
Of Fr. Harry Rasmussen, SDB

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

It was a very hot summer day in 1997. Stella Beltran, one of the Salesian Cooperators from St. Joseph Center in Rosemead, invited our novices to swim in her house. It happened that Stella’s house was adjacent to the St. Joseph Youth Renewal Center where the novices resided during their first year of their novitiate. Stella’s backyard opened to the western part of the property. Swimming sounded like a lot of fun for that Saturday afternoon. Indeed, Stella welcomed the novices with the usual Salesian hospitality; she prepared drinks and snacks for her new friends. However, the afternoon did not end with much laughter when Fr. Harry discovered that the novices were gone next door without his permission (or knowing). Being a person of principle Fr. Harry did not condone the swimming activity. Now for those of us who know Stella Beltran, a seasoned Salesian cooperator, the story did not end by returning the novices to the St. Joseph community. What followed was a heartfelt discussion of the transition of the novices discerning their call and moving into the community setting. We, the cooperators, felt that during their first year, the novices might not be 100% acclimated to the religious life right away. Families were important part of their lives,
hence contacts and social activities with lay families should not interfere with their discernment. On the other hand, we felt that gradual transition to religious lives, allowing family activities could enhance their adjustment in the first year. Fr. Harry was open to reasoning; for the rest of the summer, we have witnessed Fr. Harry and his novices jumping in and out of Stella’s pool. You could hear the laughter from the St. Joseph premise!

Fr. Harry accepted his decline in health gracefully. He was always so grateful for the care he received at the Dominic Savio Community. We had seen him participated, wheel chair and all, many of the parish and Salesian activities. He enjoyed meeting up with old friends. And boy, he had very good memories. As a matter of fact, it was only 2 weeks ago that I came up to him during the celebration of the Salesian Jubilee at St. John Bosco school courtyard. I said: “Fr. Harry, this is Sheila. How are you?” He head drooped down since he lost his eye-sight. But as soon as he heard my voice, in his usually warm, strong voice, he responded: “How is Louis?” (Louis is my husband) and “How is Wynton doing?” (Wynton is our 26 years old son). Being with the Salesian community was utmost important to him. He was with his Salesian family to the very end.

Since our first encounter at St. Joseph Youth Renewal Center when he became the director of the community and the Master of the Novitiate, his friendship with the St. Joseph Cooperators flourished over 20 years. We know he was a great mentor and did an excellent job in his capacity as the Master for the novitiate. A picture is better than a thousand words. His success as a mentor can be measured by the achievement of his novices. Just look at the pictures we post – do you recognize the “Who’s and Who’s in our USA Salesian Provinces ” in these pictures? When Saint Peter meets Fr. Harry at the Heaven’s gate, he will surely say: “A job well done, Harry!”
Loneliness – Responding Positively to Being Alone (Part 7)

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

We have explored the possible reasons of why we feel lonely or depressed. This feeling is not limited to just the seniors. Like I said before, it behaves like the flu; more prevalent in the viral season, but can be around all year long. Our “viral season” for loneliness is a vulnerable period of our life. It would be those difficult times when you are aging with failing health. It might be the death of a significant other, or a setback in your career. No matter what the cause is, you need to identify your situation and deal with it. It is, of course, easier said than done. However, I have seen people who were successful in handling the situations. Let us begin with the young first:

You don’t have to be socially awkward not to have a lot of friends in high school or college. I dare say almost 90% of the young adults go through the loss of their “first love”. I remember too well bringing up two sons. This inevitable experience of “being jilted” is very real. Yap, there were plenty of tears and sleepless nights. In spite of a lot of anticipatory guidance that their first love would not be their future wife did not matter. The depression, isolation and lamenting went on for months. Some kids would take up smoking, drug, or alcohol to get out of this horrible feeling of loneliness. Their fragile ego cannot take on this hardship in this life journey. What is your strategy as parents to help them overcome this horrible feeling? I think the answer comes from the Salesian Strenna 2018 – listening and being present.

No one really can avoid the diagnosis of a chronic or terminal illness. Now what should you do when you have the bad news of a fatal or progressive illness? When I look around me, the one person who comes to mind who should get an award for being the most positive patient is the late Fr. Chris Woerz. I still remember his e-mail message to the cooperators from his hospital room. (Fr. Chris was our Salesian Family Delegate) “I am alone a lot, I know how hard it is for my brothers and you guys to visit me. But I am not lonely.” He spent 6 months out of a year in the hospital battling his infected leg and diabetes. I am in the health profession for 42 years, at this time, I had not been able to come up with the right answer as to why he had such a beautiful attitude in life until I reviewed the webinar on Intimacy, Loneliness and Solitude by Sean D. Sammon, FMS. I had invited Fr. Chris to share his recipe with our Care Ministry. He did not have a chance to enlighten us with his wisdom. But when I watched him from the sideline, I come to the following conclusion of why he is alone and not lonely:

Fr. Chris knew exactly who he was and what he wanted in life. He accepted his decline in health with no complaints. He managed to keep himself very, very busy every day in the hospital. He had his remote control button, not for the TV channels, but his computer to work on presentations for the Salesian Cooperator formation lessons. He also participated fully in the conference calls regarding his Salesian Family Groups. Keeping his focus on his work and allowing only minimal disruption from the medical condition might be one of the strategies to stay ahead of depression. He was never angry or scared of making decisions regarding his treatment. He was always surrounded with good friends and families. But hospital visits were sporadic when the medical condition lasted over such a long period. What kept him going? If I have to guess, Fr. Chris might have the following #s: #InunionwithGod. #Faithfultoyourmission. #Dowhatyoucan.

How do you offer words of comfort for those who have a terminal diagnosis? Should you call when you hear of their mishaps? Are they ready to talk about their situation? There is really no right answer to the situation. You know your family or friend the best. You know how to convey the message of love without saying I love you. Louis impressed me last week by sending a basket of fruit to a friend who is going through chemotherapy. He simply said: “Hang in there. You can do it.” Find your comfort zone to say you care. The spirituality of Accompaniment is in our blood. Don’t miss the chance to reach out to someone whose poverty is loneliness.

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week: Update your e-mail, your Facebook friends or Instagram and reach out to someone who is lonely.
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
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
Suscite 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**

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**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, 
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**
“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