When Don Rua died, there were 345 houses. With Don Rua the Congregation expanded and spread in an amazing way. Although his term as Rector Major brought many grave problems that could have destroyed the Salesian Society, Don Rua was able to navigate, with the help of God and Mary, through the rough times and propel the Salesians to a bright and great future. Let us pray for Don Rua’s intercession and ask that we be blessed by many good vocations.

I just returned from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where 13 provincials and Fr. Tim Ploch, Regional, met for 8 days to pray, reflect on issues that pertain to our region, deal with some administrative issues and have time for fraternal sharing and fun. The meetings took place in Jarabacoa, two hours away from the capitol of Santo Domingo and up in the mountains. The setting was beautiful and the hospitality exceptional. We stayed in a Salesian Retreat House which is very well maintained. The Provincials spent the first full day in a retreat atmosphere with much sharing on our personal journeys as provincials. On Thursday, we were given a free day which included a visit to two Salesian Schools, a facility for the elderly and a two hour bus ride to a beautiful beach area where friends of
the Salesians loaned us their condominium and hosted us to a delicious meal overlooking the ocean. We also had time to swim or rest on a nearby beach or simply stay in their condominium area. It was a wonderful day of fraternity, laughter and rest.

The other days of the week included presentations from the financial office of the Economist General, Brother Jean Paul Muller (Br. Muller was not able to make it due to some urgent issues which had surfaced just before he was to leave for Santo Domingo. Dr. Janko Jochimsen, a lay person from Germany who works with Br. Jean Paul, presented instead); a presentation from Fr. Marcelo Escalante on his book about Fr. Arthur Lenti’s life and work, published in Spanish and English (That book had been presented to Fr. Arthur and the Salesian Family on February 2, 2018, just a few days after Arthur Lenti’s 95 birthday, which coincided also with Don Bosco’s feast, January 31). We also spent considerable time in small groups, grouped by provinces, in order to talk about our formation programs, Curatoriums and formation personnel. Since the restructuring by the Rector Major of our Formation Houses a year ago, provinces are now asked to support with personnel, those formation houses in the areas which include their provinces. Fr. Tim Zak, provincial of the New Rochelle province, and I met by ourselves. The days also included prayer moments prepared by the different provinces and Goodnights.

I am grateful for this annual gatherings of provincials, for the preparation done by the hosting provinces and those who organize our program and scheduling (Fr. Tim Ploch) and for the fraternal support and sharing of my brother provincials. It means a lot to be able to pray, play and plan together.

Today we celebrated the funeral Mass for Fr. Harry Rasmussen who passed away on October 15th. The Mass and services took place at St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, at 9:30 am. Tomorrow, October 31, another Mass will be celebrated in Richmond, followed by his burial.

We celebrate and honor Fr. Harry Rasmussen who gave so many years of generous service to the Salesian Congregation and the Church. Throughout his many years as a Salesian, Harry served as Director, Provincial, delegate for Project Africa, an assignment given to him by Fr. Viganò, when we were just starting to expand in that continent. Fr. Harry is remembered here in our province and throughout our region as a gentleman, a good man, a kind man and someone who was balanced and firm in his Salesian vocation in the midst of so many changes. He was always cheerful and encouraging. Even in his last days, although blind and weakened by his dialysis treatment three times a week and not always coherent, he would break into song at the dinner table. It brought a smile to many. Fr. Harry was very much a community man and almost to the end, insisted on being part of the prayer moments and other community events. Fr. Harry was 87 year of age. He will be remembered fondly by many. May he Rest In Peace.

Next week, the two provincial councils (East and West) will meet in Richmond for two days of meetings. We look forward to hosting our Eastern Brothers this year (we alternate every year). Please keep us in your prayers. The Church, especially, in the United States and our Provinces are undergoing some difficult challenges. Like Don Rua, who also faced some similar difficulties, may we be graced with the same wisdom, trust and courage exhibited by Blessed Michael Rua and Fr. Harry Rasmussen. May Mary hold our hands and never let go.

With warm regards and gratitude,
Don Bosco Technical Institute
Open House - November 18

By Karen Krynen
Communications Officer

Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will host its Open House for prospective students and their families on Sunday, November 18, 2018, from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Middle school students are invited to tour the school’s extensive engineering and applied science labs and participate in Bosco Tech’s signature Explore and Create workshops. Offered to boys in grades 6–8, these free sessions allow middle school students a chance to experience Bosco Tech’s uniquely integrated, hands-on STEM education. Workshop space is limited.

New this year is information on the launch of the school’s Biological, Medical & Environmental Technology (BMET) program that starts in Fall 2019. BMET courses will prepare students for advanced post-secondary studies in health care, environmental engineering and biomedical research. The BMET program joins the school’s existing engineering majors: Architecture & Construction Engineering (ACE); Computer Science & Electrical Engineering (CSEE); Integrated Design, Engineering and Art (IDEA); Media Arts & Technology (MAT); and Materials Science, Engineering & Technology (MSET).

“Open House is a great opportunity for prospective students to learn more about Bosco Tech’s reputation as a premier college-preparatory, STEM-focused high school,” said Bosco Tech Principal Xavier Jimenez. “Middle school students and their families can tour extensive lab facilities while learning about all the school offers, including interscholastic sports, extracurricular clubs, service organizations and honor societies.”

Shadow tours and details about financial aid will available during the event.

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 college acceptance rate of 100 percent, with the majority of graduates pursuing STEM-related post-secondary majors and careers. Visit www.boscotech.edu.

For more information about the Bosco Tech Open House or to participate in a workshop, contact:

Director of Admissions John Garcia
Email: jgarcia@boscotech.edu
Phone: (626) 940-2009.
Bosco Tech Parent Council invites you to

Holiday Boutique

Sunday, December 2nd • 10am–3pm

Handcrafted jewelry, blankets, candles, baked goods, children’s items, floral arrangements, clothing, toys, pictures with Santa and so much more.

Free admission for the whole family

For more information visit facebook/weareboscotech or contact Cathy Rivera at crivera@boscotech.edu or (626) 940-2006

Bosco Tech
1151 San Gabriel Blvd
Rosemead, CA 91770

We’ll be selling champurado, tamale plates, breakfast burritos, pan dulce, coffee and other treats!
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!
Sr. Angelita Guzman, FMA, age 90 and a native of Mission, TX, passed away Friday, October 26, 2018 in San Antonio, TX. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sr. Angelita’s culinary skills were the ministry she shared in communities from North Haledon, NJ, Watsonville, CA, Port Chester, NY, Ipswich, MA, Haledon, NJ, Laredo, TX, to Corralitos, CA. Everyone enjoyed her meals and baked goods which she prepared and presented with much love and always with a contagious smile. She returned to her beloved Texas where over the past seventeen years, she drew her strength from Jesus and Mary her constant companions. Her devotion, spiritual guidance and love extended to those who took care of her and to those she reached near and far by letter and phone. Sr. Angelita will be greatly missed by those she served children, parents, friends, priests, seminarians, relatives, and her Salesian Sisters.

Visitation will be Tuesday, October 30, 2018 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. with a Rosary at 7:00 P.M. The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated Wednesday, October 31st at 10:00 A.M. Commitment services and interment will follow at San Fernando Cemetery No. 2, San Antonio. All services will be held at the Salesian Sisters’ Provincial House, 6019 Buena Vista Street, San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Sr. Angelita may be made to support young women preparing to be Salesian Sisters, 6019 Buena Vista St. San Antonio, TX 78237. Thank you.

The Youth of St. Luke’s and Mary Help of Christians had been working on finding that balance between the fun of All Hallows Eve and the somber remembrances of All Souls. St. Luke’s Youth assisted our parish’s Knights of Columbus council by handling the games for the Knights’ annual family Halloween party. Two nights later St. Luke’s Youth gave the Youth and Young Adults of Mary, Help of Christians, a hand with their well-planned and even better executed (meaning well done, not a pun from a Halloween horror movie) annual Trunk or Treat party. The Center’s parking lot was filled with happy, costumed little trunk or treaters, running back and forth between food and game and, of course, collecting candy…lots of candy! The hugely successful event ended with prayer as the as the cool Autumn night filled with praise music sung in both Vietnamese and English. St. Luke’s Youth will round out these days of remembrance with a question and answer night with Fr. Marc Rougeau on “death, the afterlife, and things that go ‘bump in the night.’
On Monday October 22, 2018, Meiko Taylor gave a talk to the young people of St. Dominic Savio Church about Sex Trafficking. Meiko explained that sex trafficking is a problem that is closer to us than we thought. She explained the difference between prostitution and sex trafficking and the difference between victim and survival, how young people are isolated and maintained in the industry of sex trafficking. Meiko explained how young people who have been abused are more susceptible to enter into sex trafficking. Sex trafficking also happens to males.

Did you know...

1. Majority of teens being trafficked have history of trauma no matter their social status.

2. When your basic needs are not met you become vulnerable.

3. Children in foster care are more vulnerable.

4. A large number of runaway, homeless, abused, and at youth risk are approached by “PIMPS” within 2 days of being on the streets.

5. Average age of sex trafficking victims is between 12 and 14 years.

The main objective of this presentation was to teach our young people how important it is to have a support system, to trust in their families and always express their feelings with their family.
While going through different stages of our life, loneliness creeps in unannounced. Hence we need to be cognizant of coping skills to respond to life challenges. Sean D. Sammon, FMS in his webinar suggested the idea of midlife prayer; we are invited to a deeper, less conscious form of prayer (thoughtless, wordless, imageless; we perceive or feel nothing of God’s work in us). Our challenge, he added, is to surrender. Deeper contemplation allows the Lord to look at us with love.

Life’s later years usher in physiological and mental changes that demand us to come to terms with limitations; living with integrity. Sean posted the question of “How old is old?” in his webinar. And the second question: Not what does it mean to die, but rather what does it mean to have lived a life? For those of us who have had a professional life, it might be easier to answer the second question of our contribution in the working environment or society. I wonder how difficult it is to answer this question if you have an averaged paid job with no college degree? Perhaps we might be able to answer this question by examining of our Blessed Mother. She had no college degree; she did not work in a big corporation. But her contribution to society was huge; her obedience to God’s call, her devotion to her family and being the caregiver of her son would mean a life well lived.

You might not be aware that you are entering the inevitable part of your life that is not that glamorous. Marker events such as old age pension, death of friends, leaving a familiar and, perhaps, life-long ministry, and health crisis are reminders of the stage in life that could result in despair and isolation. However, we are also reminded that our ways of coping with aging are a function of our personality and ways of living up to this point. In another words, you can create a “new life of retirement” by accepting the changes and how what you want to do with your senior years with declining health, should we dwell on what we cannot do vs. what we can do? Some of my friends kept lamenting that their days are numbered, and they worry about how their end could be? We had mentioned before, there is no rehearsal for death. However, we could face the challenge of failing health, being left behind by spouse and friends, and look at each new day by praising the Lord for another beautiful day. Our late adult years are marked by the need to adapt, in an ongoing way, to our declining physical and psychological abilities. While going through this life transition, we should have a growing awareness that we are approaching the final stage of life and that also means the need to give up important roles that defined us. One colleague who was a medical doctor had no problem telling his friends that he was “speaking in five continents until he became incontinent.” And the most amazing thing was that he could laugh about it. Knowing who you are is intimately associated with the ability to combat role changes. Don’t let old age define you. You can map out what you want to do with your golden years.

Your home work from the Care Ministry this week is:

Take an inventory of what you have done and map out your “bucket list”.

The Care Ministry welcomes your feedback: kunlouis@gmail.com
“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