bombarded by the opinions of others. What seemed to be the total conquest of freedom of expression has meant that a part of citizenship feels increasingly invaded, pressed upon and made to feel uncomfortable. Pressure groups organized in networks – whether feminists, left-wing or right-wing activists, and the like – have begun to commit intolerable excesses through real digital lynchings, petitions for boycotting, gathering signatures. Justice has been democratized and the silent majority stoically support the ruthless voice of arrogant and closed minorities.

During the days of the Synod, it was recalled that the digital world is “a space for people and not for cables”, and Pope Francis reiterated: “We are members of one another” (Eph 4:25).

(ANS – Rome) – It is a fact that digital communication is a challenge for the Church. In the last Synod of Bishops, the network is spoken of as a space of evangelization, like a continent to explore, like a new place to live. The old “information highways” have now become true “constellations of content”, with about 1,400 million websites on the network and their number grows exponentially, while every day new virtual communities of meetings and discussions arise according to the different tastes and needs of people.

The social networks are the today’s main protagonists: it is estimated that Facebook alone has 2.2 billion active users every month, while Instagram has over one billion.

These so-called virtual communities have put us in a world where we live communication and the exchange of ideas, but do not erase or cancel the basic principles of good manners, civic coexistence and respect, which should always prevail among people, the result of a model of “constructive” communication based on the rights of people. And the first of these rights is undoubtedly respect for the freedom of opinion, even if different from mine.

A challenge for us is to learn again a language of communion and to give space to respect and generosity that allow a more transparent communication, a communication that recognizes the value of the vision of our interlocutors and that facilitates the slow emergence of truth. Learning to know this language means moving towards a type of communication that is built on the basis of real information, dialogue and mutual understanding.

From this point of view social networks are emerging as a powerful tool of transformation at various levels, generating creative ideas, which allow us to think together with solutions for different problems.

We are living one of the most beautiful and productive moments in history. We have a long journey ahead of us, places never seen before, unknown landscapes … It is there that the Church has to go, without fear and with the desire to inhabit them. We must take possession of new languages and communication strategies, but above all we must leave behind our mental and discursive paradigms that articulate extemporaneous and inappropriate communication models, which do not allow us to communicate with the new generations.
On January 26, St Mary’s Parish hosted a heartwarming feast on behalf of Saint John Bosco day for the community of Boyle Heights. The community came together to partake in the feast that was hosted by Father Rafael, Sister Roble, Sister Theresa, and Sister T.A. Together they gathered the Youth Ministry and other parishioners to help manage the game booths, the mechanical bull, inflatable jumpers, and the preparation and distribution of the food. The celebration began, with a magician performing a variety of tricks and illusions that entertained and amused the young boys and girls.

After the performance, the young boys and girls got their face painted with unique designs that brought them joy. They also participated in creative games to win Don Bosco dollars in order to claim prizes; many were excited to play the same game, until they won Don Bosco dollars. Others spend time riding the mechanical bull and playing inside the inflatable jumpers with the supervision of parishioners and their parents.

At the end of the feast, parishioners distributed luncheons and drinks to the community and ended with a closing prayer in remembrance of the beloved Saint John Bosco.
Faculty and student body celebrating the Feast Day of Don Bosco
Students got to enjoy Unity Week and a school wide Potluck for Don Bosco’s Feast Day.
See the great Salesian work done at macro level. After the break the participants gather to find new ways to promote collaboration among the clubs. Among the ideas we can find: to create a magazine for all the clubs, to create the Salesian Youth of the Year Program and more.

Follow you will find some key information about the Club’s numbers. At this moment, the Clubs serve children in San Francisco, Richmond, Los Angeles and Bellflower. We have an average of daily attendance of 722 children. Every day we provide food for each child and we have over 53 employees working for the good of our children. In total, every year we impact positivity the life of 9,939 children! – This is what we do for the children of our communities!

By J.C Montenegro
Coordinator for Youth Ministry - Savio

On February 6, 2019 for the first time in history, the Executive Directors and the site Directors of all the Salesian Clubs in California gathered in San Francisco. The main purpose of this gather was to share the best operational practices of each of the five clubhouses in California. The second objective was to find ways to work together in synergy to provide a better service to the children.

The meeting started with a visit to the Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Club in Francisco, followed by the presentation of the best practices in each location. This conversation helped our youth professionals to see the great Salesian work done at macro level. After the break the participants gather to find new ways to promote collaboration among the clubs. Among the ideas we can find: to create a magazine for all the clubs, to create the Salesian Youth of the Year Program and more.

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Salesian Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs in California

The children that we work with are 50% Hispanic Americans and 14% African Americans and Asians Americans. 42% of our children are elementary students.

All together, we have served 277 years.

We serve 722 children daily.

Every day we provide food to our children.

We have 53 employees working for the good of children.

Every year we impact positively the life of 9,939 children.

Helping children succeed in life!
Year) families from afar gather back at their hometowns to celebrate as a big family. In the tradition, there are three main days to celebrate the Lunar New Year; the first day of New Year, is dedicated for the immediate families to gather together to give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given upon the families. On the second day, the families go to visit and exchange blessings to their relatives and in-laws. On the third day, it is dedicated for everyone to go visit close friends, neighbors, teachers, and acquaintances to exchange blessings. After the three days, the celebration continues for the rest of the month.

The young people always look forward for Lunar New Year, it is a chance for them to go to their parents, grandparents, and relatives to wish them a new year that they may receive abundant blessings, luck, properties, happy and good health. After the wishing/blessing, the youngsters receive Li xi (the red envelope/lucky money).

On Thursday, February 9th, our community celebrated Tết (Lunar New Year) we had a festive celebration for Lunar New Year! The meal was prepared by the Vietnamese confreres by cooking Phở (Vietnamese soup), gỏi (Vietnamese salad), and egg-roles for our meal, followed by the traditional wishing represented by the youngest confrere for all the confreres to the oldest confrere of the community. Br. Quang along
with the brothers in Formation wished Br. Sal and the Formators to have an abundant year with God’s blessings, luck, good health, joy, prosperities... Afterwards Br. Sal distributed the lì xì (the red envelope) to all members in the community. Then, Brothers Ky, Damien, Quang and Francis sang a song for the community called “Ly Rượu Mừng” (a Vietnamese song that talks about the celebration of Lunar New Year). At the end of the evening, we shared the laughter, enjoyment, and fun of the celebration as a community.

I also take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Salesian Family will have an abundantly blessings from God, good health, happy/joy and prosperity in this New Year and see you all back in California soon!

Community dinner for Lunar New Year!

Br. Ky Nguyen, SDB preparing dinner

Candidate, Francis Nguyen making the egg rolls!
Br. Damien Ho, SDB preparing the bowls for Pho!

Br. Ky gifting Br. Sal Sammarco, SDB a special red envelope

Br. Quang Nguyen, SDB carefully pouring in the broth

Br. Quang gifting Br. Sal another red envelope as Fr. John Nazzaro, SDB watches on
News on the Vocations Horizon

By Fr. John Roche, SDB
Coordinator for Vocations

Many exciting things are rising on the vocation horizon. In early January, Christopher Green joined me with the Salesian Sisters and the Salesians of the East at a booth for the SEEK Conference in Indianapolis. There we celebrated five days of workshops and incredible prayer with 17,000 college students on fire with faith! The Salesian Booth was hopping thanks to the rosary making factory led by Christophe (one of our candidates in Bellflower), Kevin White (first year candidate in Orange), Brothers Damien and Quang (Post-novitiate Students at Orange from our western Province), Deacons Eddie Chincha and Juan Pablo Rubio, Fr. Dominic Tran, Sister Jeanette Palasota (heading up vocation ministry out of Bend Oregon) and many other FMA from the east. Some of the participants said ours was the most interactive and fun booth (due largely to the great work of “Happy Nun”, Sr. Theresa Lee).

Most impressive were the many direct inquiries about religious life. I had five explicit requests from the western United States and the Sisters seemed to have many more. Fr. Dominic probably made a dozen contacts. This conference is worth its weight in gold as far as vocation ministry is concerned.

We were barely back in Bellflower when we headed north for a “Come and See” Weekend in the Bay Area. We invited six young men. Four showed up, but the other two had real conflicts with work and have maintained connection. We were hosted by Fr. Thomas Thodukulam, (Pastor and director of the Community at Corpus Christi) and hosted also by Fr. Gael and Fr. Jose at Saints Peter and Paul parish in North Beach. Eduardo DeLeon (first year candidate) and Christopher accompanied us on this retreat and made quite a difference. The Inquirers included a man studying theology in San Antonio with the Oblates, a young man studying at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley coming very close to graduating with an MTh Degree, a graduate of Santa Clara University.
originally hailing from St. Louis Missouri who has now become very active in Saints Peter and Paul after landing a job and living in San Francisco, and a wonderful man who has been doing youth ministry for years coming from his parish in San Diego. From these four alone we have one man making application immediately, one who wants to join as soon as he gets his degree in San Antonio (3 semesters to go), and two other men seriously discerning Salesian ministry among other orders.

After we returned, we cranked up gears for a block wide celebration of St. Francis de Sales. The Salesian Sisters and all the Bellflower SDBs came to De Sales for a special evening of prayer and a barbecue. One of the young men who could not make it to San Francisco for the Come and See Weekend is named Jose Ambrosio. He came for the block celebration. His story is a remarkable story and he has many young men attached to him in altar serving ministries for some conventions and for a Catholic Radio station where he is employed. His own story of conversion is so amazing that he should be published! He is helping to gather other young men to pull together a pilgrimage “Come and See” between northern and southern California for some time in April. We are collaborating on that effort. Into that mix of young men is a senior at Don Bosco Tech who wants to bring up to seven other Tech servant-leaders he knows have a desire to discern. It as Jose Ambrosio who pulled the Tech senior into the mix and is encouraging a Salesian Vocation. And it just so happens that Jose also attended a Come and See with one of our Come and See attendees the weekend before. Both of these men have also been attracted to the missionary work of the Claretians.

At the De Sales Feast gathering, SJB graduate and USC freshman, Noah Fisher came to report on his progress with GIFT Community efforts. He maintains contact with many other classmates for the sole purpose of encouraging attention to their faith life. He understands the need to promote faith before even suggesting a vocation discernment. He remains a remarkable and very loyal Salesian past-pupil.

As the week moved forward toward St. John Bosco’s feast, I was able to offer two nights of Adult Formation at St. Dominic Savio. The happy surprise for me was the attendance on both nights of the many Confirmation students. Many of them knew me form other events and two of those I have approached about vocations reminded me at the end of the talk. One I invited to join us for the Salesian celebration of Don Bosco’s feast at St. John Bosco High School. Our celebration was held on the vigil of Don Bosco beginning with an amazing meal hosted by the Mama Margaret’s Guild—a many course Piedmontese Dinner! Two of the young men from the Confirmation and High School contacts joined us for that evening.

On the whole, vocations are certainly out there and I am excited every day. One pastor has drawn up a list of the young adults who were involved in his parish and has promised to give me hopeful contacts from as long ago as ten years. Every effort helps. I would like to kindly remind all the directors, pastors, and CYMs that I have requested monthly meetings to surface names and contacts. There has been little response except for the one pastor. I would ask all of the communities to renew that effort and help me identify your potential leaders and potential vocations. It is amazing what a
small invitation and personal touch can do.

I have scheduled a one day high school retreat at De Sales for southern California students for March 2. I could really use your help to identify your young leaders and personally invite them to attend. It is from 9:00 AM through supper (7:00 PM). Please help make this another opportunity for invitation. In fact, with careful planning, we could make that weekend a pilgrimage to witness the ordination of Deacon Gutavo! So, contact me right away with possible names so I can find places to stay and obtain parental permissions as needed. Keep smiling and inviting!
Chronic Cancer Pain Management

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

The subject of chronic cancer pain is nothing foreign. It is still very vivid in my mind of two cases where the onset of pain heralded lung cancer for my brother and a very dear friend M.W. Both passed away in a year after their stage 4 diagnosis of lung cancer. The complaint of back pain was so non-specific that they attributed it to “playing too much tennis”, or “I accidentally twisted my back while bending down to take a close up picture of a flower.” In each case, the pain is real. I had this book on Chronic Cancer Pain Management written by nurses. Nurses, who spend a lot of time at the bedside, understand pain. They are the ones that monitor the onset of pain and manage the patients’ response to treatment. Therefore I chose to share this little booklet with you for the next few weeks.

Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN commented that the under-treatment of cancer pain remains a significant clinical problem. She reported that approximately 50% of oncology outpatients who are undergoing active treatment and 80-90% of patients in the late stages of their illness report moderate to severe pain. Studies have shown that unrelieved cancer pain results in deleterious consequences. Oncology patients with unrelieved pain experience more depression, fatigue, mood disturbances, decreased functional status, and a significantly poorer quality of life than pain-free patients. Reflecting back on my brother’s experience, he initially ignored the pain symptoms as he was an active tennis player. He assigned blame on his over-stretching moves. Finally, the pain lingered on for over 6 months with no real plan of assessing the original of the pain. The fear of associating pain with a cancer diagnosis is real. My take on this is; it is better to find out sooner than later. Ignoring the pain symptoms would not make them go away.

Thus, we need to recognize the barriers to effective cancer pain management. Personally I feel that an awareness of how you normally function, and knowing what is your baseline physiologically is the first step to identify the problem. The diagnosis of cancer is an extremely scary experience that no one wants to hear. Yet stalling and procrastinating is not helpful to eventually face the awful diagnosis. Yes, it is difficult to walk through life with a horrible diagnosis. But you should not ignore your unusual onset of pain, as it might be one of the early signs of something is not working right with your body system.

Starting next week, we will explore chronic cancer pain management together. I know this is an uncomfortable topic. But we need to educate ourselves to catch the problems early. Prompt diagnosis is better than a terminal stage discovery.

Let us pray together for those who are cancer patients who are receiving treatment or those who are cancer survivors. We will accompany them by submitting fervent prayers for their speedy recovery or strength to overcome their fear of a cancer diagnosis.

Your homework assignment for this week:

Reach out to a friend with cancer.

The Care Ministry welcomes your feedback – email kunlouis@gmail.com
“Behold, I come to do your will, O God.”

Heb 10:9

Presbyteral Ordination

With Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God the Salesians of Don Bosco of the Province of Saint Andrew the Apostle joyfully announce and cordially invite you to attend the Presbyteral Ordination of our Brother

Rev. Dn. Gustavo Ramirez, SDB

Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands by

His Excellency

Bishop Salvador Cleofas Murguia Villanueva, SDB
Mixes, Mexico

On Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 11:00 AM

Corpus Christi Church
62 Santa Rosa Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94112

Please join us for lunch immediately following Holy Mass in the Parish Hall.

The First Mass of Thanksgiving of Fr. Gustavo Ramirez, SDB will be on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 12:00 PM.
With Praise and Thanksgiving to God.

The Salesians of Don Bosco of the Provinces of Saint Andrew in San Francisco, California and Saint Peter Claver of Bogota joyfully announce and cordially invite you to attend the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon

Fabián Alberto Cárdenas Chinchilla, SDB

Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the imposition of hands by His Excellency,

Camilo Fernando Castrellón Pizano, SDB
Bishop of the Diocese of Barrancabermeja, Colombia.

On Monday the Twenty-Fifth of March, 2019
“Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord”
At 10:00 o’clock in the morning,
El Niño Jesús Church
Carrera 6 N 27-65 Sur.
Bogotá D.C. - Colombia.

First Thanksgiving Mass:
On Monday the Twenty-Fifth of March, 2019
At 5:00 o’clock in the evening,
El Niño Jesús Church
Carrera 6 N 27-65 Sur, Bogotá D.C. - Colombia.
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