It is the Holy Spirit, he said, who accompanies us, transforms us, and overcomes sin with us.

“No one has ever ascended to heaven except He who descended from heaven: Jesus. He came down from heaven, and at the moment of the resurrection, he said to us ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’, the companion of Christian life”.

“One cannot walk the path of a Christian life without the Holy Spirit”, he said.

The Holy Spirit is our daily companion.

There cannot be a Christian life without the Holy Spirit, who is “our daily companion”, the Pope continued: “a gift from the Father, a gift from Jesus”.

“Let us ask the Lord” the Pope said, “to give us this awareness that we cannot be Christians without walking with the Holy Spirit, without acting with the Holy Spirit, without letting the Holy Spirit be the protagonist of our lives”.

We must ask ourselves, therefore – he concluded – what place does the Spirit have in our lives, and we must ask the Lord for the grace to understand this message: “Our companion on our way is the Holy Spirit”.

Speaking during the homily at Mass in the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis said we can be reborn from “our sinful existence” only with “the help of the same power that raised the Lord: the power of God”. That’s why, he continued, “the Lord sent us the Holy Spirit”, because alone, we cannot do it.

He was reflecting on the Gospel of the day in which Jesus tells Nicodemus “You must be born from above”.

Linking this message to Easter and the Lord’s Resurrection, the Pope recalled the fact that in the first apparition of Jesus to the apostles, on the Sunday of the Resurrection, the Lord breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit”.

The Holy Spirit is our strength.

“This is our strength! We cannot do anything without the Spirit”, he said. Reminding those present that a Christian life is not only about behaving well and doing the right things, the Pope said we can write our lives in “flourishing penmanship” but we are reborn only from the Spirit, therefore we must make room for it:

“It is the Spirit that allows us to rise from our limitations, from our deaths, because there are so many necroses in our life and in our soul”, he said.

The Pope explained that “a life, that may call itself Christian, but that leaves no room for the Spirit and does not allow itself to be carried forward by the Spirit, is a pagan life, disguised as Christian”.

“The Spirit” he said, “is the protagonist of Christian life”.
We pray for the sick and suffering in our province, that they will be restored to full health.

Bless those who have grown old in your service and give them courage and strength in their faith.

Be with us as we discern our life’s work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

We ask you this, that in everyone and in everything glory, adoration and love may be given to the Most High Lord of all things, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.
North American Salesian Network (NASN) held its annual meeting from Monday, April 29, 2019 to Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at De Sales Center in Brooklyn, Michigan, which is also the site of the novitiate of Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (www.desales.org, 1124 Ventura Dr, Brooklyn, MI 49230).

NASN, made up of groups that share in the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, facilitates the sharing of Salesian resources and promotes initiatives aimed at “refreshing our North American culture with the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and our Founders” (Mission Statement).

In view of the four hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Francis de Sales in 2022, NASN members have been discussing the possibility of Salesian institutes and associations requesting that the Holy Father to issue an encyclical on St. Francis de Sales. Fr Joe Boenzi presented this suggestion to a committee of SDB general councilors organized to discuss the quadricentenary. Through them the Rector Major and the General Council have accepted the proposal and are considering making a formal request of the Pope. Now, NASN members will consult their organizations to see whether their leadership would prefer asking the SDB Rector Major to co-sign the request or to make separate requests.

As part of the effort to extend awareness of St. Francis de Sales NASN has begun plans to canvas Catholic media outlets – TV and radio stations – on what programs they already have and would be willing to produce on the saint or Salesian topics. It has also started to compile a list of dioceses, parishes and schools who have St. Francis de Sales as their patron. NASN will then provide them with the list of resources that will help them capitalize on the quadricentenary.

Fr. Kevin Nadolski, O.S.F.S, Vice President for Mission of DeSales University in Center Valley, PA, attended the meeting and participated in the discussion on drawing attention to St. Francis de Sales. The university hosts The Salesian Center for Faith and Culture.

Ann Williams of Visitation Salesian Network, an association of lay men and women in Visitation Sisters schools, distributed “Salesian Formation Development Chart” which is a syllabus for the Salesian formation of faculty and staff. Fr. John Puntino shared San Francisco’s “Province System of Salesian Schools” which contains standards and benchmarks for SDB Salesian schools. Both of these tools are works in progress and of great interest to NASN members.

Through the initiative of Fr. John Graden, O.S.F.S. from Embraced By God, an Oblate center for Salesian resources and ministries, NASN members are developing reflections on how Salesian values can enrich North American culture. This, too, is a work in progress.

NASN members recognize the desirability of hiring a coordinator to accomplish its goals, particularly in light of the quadricentenary. Each member will approach his or her leadership to present the job description, requesting suggestions and seeking a commitment to help fund the position.

This year’s annual meeting also included discussions on the role NASN could play in the future of Embraced By God and on promoting the use of St. Francis de Sales’ Introduction to the Devout Life as a tool for those who feel called to make a private vow.

Next year’s meeting will take place at the same location from Monday to Wednesday following Divine Mercy Sunday, April 20-22, 2020.
Bosco Tech offers dynamic summer programs for Sixth through Twelfth Graders

By Karen Krynen
Communication Officer

ROSEMEAD, CA. – June 7, 2019 - Don Bosco Technical Institute (Bosco Tech) will offer academic enrichment and review courses, as well as sports camps, to boys and girls in sixth to twelfth grade during the summer. Six-week high school courses begin on Monday, June 17, while five-week middle school courses begin on Monday, June 24.

High school students can earn a full year’s course credit over the summer by successfully completing accelerated classes in Geometry, Algebra II and Pre-Calculus, while students who wish to recover academic credit can choose from a wide range of offerings. Also offered are enrichment classes such as Android Apps Design, Beginning Guitar, and Drawing & Illustration classes.

Middle school-aged boys and girl, in grades 6-9, can enroll in many different academic and enrichment classes, including Introduction to Battle Royale, an examination of modern warfare in American literature, and Guitar Hero, which entails acoustic guitar and chord progression lessons. Review the online brochure for a full listing of options (www.boscotech.edu/admission/summer-programs/).

Additionally, the Bosco Tech Summer Scholars program offers boys entering grades 7 and 8 a sampling of the high school's unique project-based STEM curriculum. Tech Scholar candidates must have a grade point average at or above 3.0.

The deadline for summer school pre-registration is June 7. Walk-in registration, on a space-available basis, will be conducted on Thursday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prices vary by class level and number of classes selected. For further information about Bosco Tech’s summer program, and for registration forms, visit www.boscotech.edu/admission/summer-programs/ or call the school at (626) 940-2000. Information about the Bosco Tech Scholars program is available by contacting admissions@boscotech.edu.
I agree – a picture is better than a thousand words. If I have not made myself clear last week on the topic of why water is essential to your health, I hope you will take a few minutes this week to review this important cartoon as to why adequate intake of water daily optimizes the function of every part of your body.

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week:

**Summarize the cartoon and share it with a friend.**

We love to hear from you: kunlouis@gmail.com
PROVINCIAL EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION
Province of St. Andrew | San Francisco, California
March 12th – May 11th, 2019

Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga

MAY

1  Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley
2  Don Bosco Hall, Berkeley
3  Conclusion of Visitation
4  Travel to Stockton, St. Luke’s Parish
   and Vietnamese Center
5  St. Luke’s Parish, Stockton
6  St. Luke’s Parish, Stockton; Leave for
   the Provincial House
7  Provincial House Visitation
8  Provincial House Visitation
9  Work Day
10  Work Day
11 Conclusion of the Province Visitation
   and Final Report (given in Northern
   California)
12 End of Extraordinary Visitation.
“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