In his homily at Mass, Pope Francis reflected on the Old Testament figure of Jonah who ran away from God who wanted him to be His prophet to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh or they would be punished. Setting sail for Tarshish, he had to be thrown overboard to calm a furious storm that the Lord had started in the sea. A whale that swallowed him, threw him out on the shore after three days, an image, the Pope said, that reminds us of Christ's Resurrection on the third day.

**Man repents, God relents**

Tuesday's first reading continues Jonah's story where, this time, he obeys God, goes to preach to the Ninevites who convert and God relents from punishing them. The Pope said this time the “stubborn Jonah” did his job well and left. Jonah indignant at the Lord's mercy

The Holy Father said that tomorrow's Mass reading will show Jonah angry at the Lord because he is too merciful and because He does the opposite of what he threatened to do.

Jonah says to the Lord that it is better to die than to continue this work as a prophet of God, who in the end does the opposite of what He sent him to do.

Saying this, Jonah goes out of the city and builds a hut from where to see what would happen to the city. The Lord then makes a gourd plant grow over the prophet to provide him shade. But soon God causes the plant to wither and die.

Jonah is again outraged at God over the gourd plant. The Lord tells Jonah that if he could be concerned about the gourd plant, for which he did nothing, why couldn't He have mercy on a great city like Nineveh.

The Pope noted that the heated exchange between the Lord and Jonah is between two hardheads.

While Jonah is stubborn with his convictions of faith, the Lord is stubborn in His mercy. He never leaves us, he knocks on the door of the heart till the end. He's always there.

Jonah was stubborn because he put conditions on his faith. He is the model of those Christians who always put conditions saying, "I am a Christian on condition that things are done this way." They accuse that these changes are not Christian, they are heresies. The Pope said they are Christians who condition God, who condition the faith and the action of God.

**Christians who put "conditions" are afraid to grow**

The Holy Father emphasized that "conditions" lock up many Christians in their own ideas and they take up the ugly path of ideology against the path of faith. He said such Christians are afraid of growing, of the challenges of life, of the challenges of the Lord, of the challenges of history and are attached to their first convictions and ideologies. They are Christians who continue to “prefer ideology to faith” and move away from the community, afraid to place themselves in the hands of God and prefer to judge everything from the "smallness of their hearts".

The story of Jonah presents two figures of the Church today, the Pope said. One is rooted in its ideologies and the other shows the Lord who approaches all situations without disgust. Our sins don’t disgust the Lord, the Pope said. He approached and caressed the lepers and the sick because He came to heal, He came to save, not to condemn.
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.
PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS

PRAY FOR
OUR SICK

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
FR. MARC ROUGEAU, SDB 5th
FR. JERRY WEIRICH, SDB 5th
BR. JOHN RASOR, SDB 7th
FR. STEVE WHELAN, SDB 14th
BR. VIEN NGUYEN, SDB 17th
FR. JOSEPH BOENZI, SDB 27th
FR. AL PESTUN, SDB 28th
BR. JHONI CHAMORRO, SDB 30th
FR. MOSES YUN, SDB 31st

REST IN
PEACE

TOM KALICH
(SALESIAN COOPERATOR)
JOSEPH NGHIA TRAN BUI
(FATHER OF FR. THO BUI, SDB)

OCTOBER EVENTS

1st
Board Meeting @ Bosco Tech; Rosemead, CA

5th
Feast Day: Blessed Albert Marvelli (Lay Person)

6th
Anniversary Mass @ St. Dominic Savio Parish; Bellflower, CA

9th-13th
FMA-SUO Provincial Councils Meeting; Laredo, TX

18th-23rd
NCEA; Rhode Island

19th
Diaconate Ordination of Br. Vien Nguyen; Moraga, CA

20th-27th
Provincials Meeting; Ecuador

24th
Feast Day: St. Louis Guanella (Priest and Founder of the Servants of Charity)

24th-27th
Quinquennium; Stony Point, NY

28th
Quarterly Day of Recollection

29th
Feast Day: Blessed Michael Rua (Priest)

29th
Province Advisory Meeting @ Salesian Provincial Office; San Francisco, CA

30th
Trust Meetings @ Salesian Provincial Office; San Francisco, CA
St. Bridget Chinese Catholic Church celebrated its 80th anniversary on Saturday, October 5. Chinese Catholic Association of Los Angeles, along with the parish hosted the special fundraiser and gala. Fr. Ted, Fr. Jimmy, along with several Salesian priests, brothers and the Sacred Heart sisters, as well as Fr. Joseph Ng, the Provincial of Hong Kong and other distinguished guests attended the celebrations. The goal of this fundraiser is to build a multimillion dollar Mary Help of Christian Center (MHCC). The new center will serve parishioners and its local community. The event was well attended, with approximately 680 people. The celebration dinner showed time-capsule videos highlighting St. Bridget’s historical past, transforming present, and investing the endlessly possibilities of its future.

Congratulations, St. Bridget!

From left to right; Joseph Ng, Sr. Maria Lai, Fr. Jim Nieblas, Fr. Joseph Ng, Fr. John Lam, and Fr. Ted Montemayor

Part of the entertainment was a typical Lion Dance
For the past five months Bro. Jerry Weirich has been staying at Fely-Mar Elder Care Home in San Pablo. Suffering a severe bruise to the stump of his amputated right leg, Bro. Jerry needed specialized care which the community of Richmond could not give.

His recovery has been slow and only recently was he able to begin using his prosthesis. His hope is to regain enough strength to return to the community by the end of October. Meanwhile, October 5 is his birthday. So, the community took Bro. Jerry to The Embers Barbecue Restaurant to celebrate. Both he and the community enjoyed each other’s company and Bro. Jerry got to know better this year’s novices, John Castonguay and Kevin White.

Happy Birthday
Bro. Jerry!

By Fr. John Puntino, SDB
Richmond Community

By Janelle Siqueiros
Savio Youth Ministry Leader

St. Dominic Savio’s Fall Fiesta was September 27th-29th. In this fiesta, we have many carnival rides and games. Along with all these fun activities, we have food booths. Our youth ministry is glad to always be in charge of the hot dog booth! During the hot dog booth, we had one adult volunteer lead the shift along with 4 young teenage volunteers. The responsibilities that came with working the hot dog booth was cooking the actual hot dogs and preparing them to be eaten. We also had a nacho machine. Therefore, we had to make sure that the nacho cheese was always nice and hot, as well as having enough of it and, of course, jalapenos. In addition, we were also asked to help out in the booth next door, the hamburger stand. We help every now and then by making their fries and pouring any drinks that were needed.

The hot dog stand was just a little taste of the many volunteer opportunities that we offer. We like to support our parish in the same way that they support us!
As part of responding to Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation Christus Vivit, and the Provincial Chapter’s call to better accompanying young adults, the Province Youth Ministry Office recently hosted a gathering of young professionals for an evening of networking, dialogue, and fellowship. The purpose of the gathering was to engage young adults from our works who currently are rooted in their professional life and wanted to help the province reach out to young people who are poor, at-risk and on the margins.

Throughout the night, these young people connected and shared their ideas with one another. Needs of young people in our province today were surfaced and creative ideas were sparked. While this is only an initial gathering of many others to come, it was a great evening where the young people took on the role of protagonists who wanted to do more for those on the periphery. The young adults who gathered came from the various professions of education, finance, mental health, visual arts, ministry, and business.
September 2019 in Rome was a significant moment for the SDB Delegates for the Salesian Family throughout the world. The Salesian Family Secretariat, under the leadership of Fr. Eusebio Muñoz, S.D.B., gathered the province delegates for the Salesian Family in two language groups (Romance and English languages).

Fr. Joe Farias, S.D.B. and I represented the Salesian Family in Canada and the United States at the meetings for English-speakers. We were joined by 43 other SDBs who represented Salesian provinces from Northern Europe, Asia, South East Asia, and Oceania. Using the English language was, for most of us, a great benefit in terms of communication and sharing resources.

The Salesian Family team in Rome worked very hard to provide the best formative experience for the province delegates. The animating team, led by Fr. Muñoz, included Fr. Jayapalan Raphael, delegate for the Past Pupils of Don Bosco; Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, spiritu-al animator of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA); Fr. Joan Lluís Playà, spiritual assistant for the Don Bosco Volunteers (VDB) and the Volunteers with Don Bosco (CDB). All of us deeply appreciated the team’s efforts in helping us understand various aspects of our ministry with lay people in the Salesian Family.

Renato Cursi, Salesian Cooperators, currently executive secretary of Don Bosco International, was effective in his sharing on the life and ministry of lay people in the Church and Don Bosco’s Family. Emma Ccecarelli and Tullio Lucca shared on the reality of family life and family ministry for Don Bosco’s followers in the Church.

We Delegates for the Salesian Family were challenged to be the bridge between the Salesian Family Groups and the ministries offered in the areas of SDB Formation and Salesian Youth Ministry. All the members of the Salesian Family (including SDB and FMA) are called to enter into a communion of holiness and mission in the name of Don Bosco. We were challenged to help bring all segments of the Salesian Family (consecrated and not) together in the way that we offer our members formation and orient them to the fulfillment of Don Bosco’s mission on behalf of youth most in need and their families.

A highlight for this gathering was the encounter we had with Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, Rector Major, and Tenth Successor of Don Bosco. We visited with Fr. Angel just after an inspiring moment of prayer and reflection in Don Bosco’s rooms at Sacred Heart Basilica in Rome. The Rector Major injected great energy into our meetings. He challenged us to put the Salesian Family at the heart of our consecration, communion, and mission as Don Bosco’s followers. He urged us to live the Salesian Family Charter as consecrated Religious and as Salesian Family Delegates. He urged us to revisit the deliberations of General Chapter 24 (the forgotten Chapter) to enter more fully into the spirit and practice of Don Bosco in calling together “a vast movement of people” who would take up his mission with the poorest young people and their families.

The meeting ended its four-day program with a session on planning for animating, forming, and strengthening the Salesian Family in our home provinces and throughout the world. We left this Salesian Family Delegate meeting grateful to God and Mary Help of Christians for bringing us to Don Bosco and his world-wide Salesian Family!
Monthly Community Vocation Animation
Each community is asked to spend one community meeting per month creating lists of possible persons to be invited by members of the communities, the collaborators, staff, administrators, teachers, and ministers to consider serving the Lord.

Monthly Guides
Month Community Meeting Vocation Lists: Each community will be expected to create a list of possible candidates for inviting into consideration of Salesian life at least once a month. The following schedule will assist in this effort.

OCTOBER:
The community should name young people currently involved in leadership. These young people may be new or seasoned leaders.

Persons to Remember, Cultivate, and Invite
No minor will be contacted by phone through the Vocation Office. Once a list is generated, this contact will be encouraged through the local community. Emails will be used once you have made initial invitation and encounter. Named persons over 18 can be approached by the Vocation Office.

1. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
2. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
3. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
4. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
5. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
6. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
7. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
8. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
9. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________
10. First Name: ___________ Last Name: ___________ E-mail: ___________ Cell Phone: ___________

Please ask one member of your community to serve as the Local Vocation Promoter. After these monthly meetings, send the list above to:
Salesian Vocation Office c/o De Sales Hall
P.O Box 4398, Downey, CA 90241

After generating this list, please create a plan for each community to contact and follow-up with these identified young people. Remember, if you don’t ask, they will never be invited.
As a promising new school year begins, St. Dominic Savio like to announce that Oratory returns as well! With that being said. Now you may ask… What is Oratory? Oratory is a place that allows kids to learn about prayer in a fun, safe environment. Oratory is comprised of many activities. Before starting, we always start with an opening prayer, and ask that the kids help us! Thereafter, we go into an activity called an icebreaker. This icebreaker is to break any awkward tension between the kids and their animators. Once done, we typically move onto what is an activity that consists of cheering, singing, or even dancing. For example, in this upcoming oratory, we will be teaching the kids how to dance “Thriller” by Michael Jackson in spirit of the Halloween season. Moreover, we continue on with the gospel that is led by our postulants here at our parish! They entertain the kids and teach them about God’s word. By this time, the kids get hungry and they get to eat. Our food is actually provided by a company and we are blessed to have the opportunity to feed these kids. After the kids have eaten, we split them up by their academic grades and send then to stations. What is awesome about this is that we have a baking, art & crafts, and sports station. Something really cool that we do after these stations, is that we have a group of teenagers that perform a skit that goes along with the storyline that they have planned for the entire oratory season. These individual perform and then have competing stations. Always encouraging sportsmanship and healthy competition, of course. Last but not least, we have a closing prayer and end the day with a salesian goodnight.

Oratory is on Saturdays from 12-4PM. It is for kids ages 5 and up. And for our youth volunteers ages 13 and up. We hope to see you at our next oratory!
After many hours of reflection, discussion, and rewrites, the Province Standards and Benchmarks for Salesian Secondary Schools was finally approved by the Provincial Chapter in June 2019. Now the work of applying these newly adopted standards and benchmarks begin. Over this past weekend, Lay and SDB school administrators gathered at St. Joseph Salesian Youth Renewal Center in Rosemead for their annual Fall meeting.

The first item on the agenda was a collective sharing of how each school is beginning the process of making the standards and benchmarks known. Through faculty and staff retreats and meetings, gatherings with board of directors, informational nights with students and families, our five high schools have been hard at work in helping all of our school stakeholders know and understand these standards and benchmarks in order to ensure that our Salesian charismatic and spiritual identity, educational practice, and mission are achieved and preserved.

Each school will have an official province school visit. The visit will be led by Bro. Al Vu SDB, Province Coordinator of Education, along with a team of lay and SDB school administrators. Over two days, the visiting team will provide for an internal review and self-assessment of the school, as well as an external, objective assessment; serve as a source of encouragement and positive reinforcement for the good taking place within the school; identify critical needs and issues and assist the school in creating and implementing a multi-year growth plan that addresses those critical needs and issues; finally, assess how the school contributes to the educational service of the young. The visit is part of an overall Salesian school self-study that helps the school examine how the four characteristics articulated in the Standards and Benchmarks permeate the entire life and culture of the school.

The group gathered to review the process and assessment instrument that will be used this coming academic year that is based on these standards and benchmarks. Each school will have an official province school visit. The visit will be led by Bro. Al Vu SDB, Province Coordinator of Education, along with a team of lay and SDB school administrators. Over two days, the visiting team will provide for an internal review and self-assessment of the school, as well as an external, objective assessment; serve as a source of encouragement and positive reinforcement for the good taking place within the school; identify critical needs and issues and assist the school in creating and implementing a multi-year growth plan that addresses those critical needs and issues; finally, assess how the school contributes to the educational service of the young. The visit is part of an overall Salesian school self-study that helps the school examine how the four characteristics articulated in the Standards and Benchmarks permeate the entire life and culture of the school.

Finally, the group reviewed the learning modules for the year that will focus on the vocation of the Salesian educator and an introduction the Salesian charism. These learning modules are the first two of four online initial formation for new faculty and staff.

The Standards and Benchmarks for Salesian Secondary Schools for the Province of San Francisco can be found here (Click here)

By Bro. Al Vu, SDB Coordinator for Education

A Matter of the Heart

INTOUCH - OCTOBER 8TH, 2019
Interesting Facts from the CDC (Center of Disease Control) on Influenza Prevention

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

Most of us have been taking flu shots for years. Others might be resistant to the idea of getting a flu shot because “it doesn’t work”, or “I am pretty healthy, I never get sick”. That is why I feel it is worthwhile to spend some time on this topic so that we know what we are getting into. From the CDC’s policy statement on the prevention of influenza infection for 2019, I have found the following information that might be helpful for you to have a deeper understanding of this annual infection.

Influenza Viruses and You
Influenza viruses typically circulate in the United States annually, most commonly from late fall through early spring. Most persons who contract influenza recover without serious complications or sequelae. However, influenza can result in serious illness, hospitalization, and death, particularly among older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and persons with certain chronic medical conditions. Influenza illness also is an important cause of missed work and school. Routine annual influenza vaccination for all persons aged ≥6 months who do not have contraindications has been recommended by CDC and CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) since 2010.

Why Do You Need to be Vaccinated?
The effectiveness of influenza vaccines varies depending on several factors, such as the age and health of the recipient, the types and subtypes of circulating influenza viruses, and the degree of similarity between circulating viruses and those included in the vaccine. However, vaccination provides important protection from influenza illness and its potential complications. During the six influenza seasons from 2010–11 through 2015–16, influenza vaccination prevented an estimated 1.6–6.7 million illnesses, 790,000–3.1 million outpatient medical visits, 39,000–87,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000–10,000 respiratory and circulatory deaths each season in the United States. During the recent severe 2017–18 influenza season, notable for an unusually long duration of widespread high influenza activity throughout the United States and higher rates of outpatient visits and hospitalizations compared with recent seasons, vaccination is estimated to have prevented 7.1 million illnesses, 3.7 million medical visits, 109,000 hospitalizations, and 8,000 deaths, despite an overall estimated vaccine effectiveness of 38% (62% against influenza A[H1N1]pdm09 viruses, 22% against influenza A[H3N2] viruses, and 50% against influenza B viruses).

What Viruses Are included in the Vaccine each Year
Recommendations for the composition of Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccines are made by the World Health Organization (WHO), which organizes a consultation, generally in February of each year. Surveillance data are reviewed and candidate vaccine viruses are discussed. A summary of the WHO meetings of February 21, 2019, and March 21, 2019, for selection of the 2019–20 Northern Hemisphere vaccine viruses would be ready for the CDC’s final recommendation.

(John’s note: The composition of what influenza viruses is based on the type of viruses present from the previous year, and a vigorous process among experts worldwide will determine what to include in this year’s flu vaccine.)

Your homework assignment from the Care Ministry this week: remind a friend to get the flu shot this week.

The Care Ministry welcomes your comments/suggestions: kunlouis@gmail.com
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Pray, Praise, Grow, Serve

SPEAKERS:

Professor Thomas Rausch SJ, T Marie Chilton
Professor of Catholic Theology at LMU

Professor Fr Nicolas Bajo Santos, Associate Professor of Biblical Theology University of Salamanca

Professor Ramon Posada, Associate Professor of Philosophy East Los Angeles College

Fr Parker Sandoval, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Sr Sydney Moss, FMA

Fr. John Roche, SDB
With gratitude to God
the Society of Jesus
and the Salesians of Don Bosco
announce the

Ordination to the Diaconate of

Justin Claravall, S.J.
San Mai, S.J.
Vien Minh Nguyen, S.D.B
Joshua Peters, S.J.
Perry Petrich, S.J.

Victor Ramos Talavera, S.J.

to be conferred by
Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland
Saturday, the nineteenth of October
two thousand nineteen
at nine o’clock in the morning
St Mary’s College Chapel
1928 St. Mary’s Road
Moraga, CA 94575

BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ

TEACH WHAT YOU BELIEVE

PRACTICE WHAT YOU TEACH
“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