

# SALESIAN BULLETIN

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### The Salesian Bulletin

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Salesian students from Southern California celebrate St. Dominic Savio, and other young Salesian saints, at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, Los Angeles.

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# Salesian Motto for 2005

by Pascual Chavez, SDB



On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican Council II, in the light of *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes* which helped us see that the Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ, Mother of believers, servant of the world; and aware that it is “the Church’s task to reflect the light of Christ in every historical period, to make his face shine also before the generations of the new millennium,” (NMI 16), as the Salesian Family we commit ourselves to

***Rejuvenate the face of the Church, the Mother of our Faith.***

It is not a matter of a “face-lift” or of cosmetic surgery, but of committing ourselves to grafting onto her new energies, and making her more beautiful and attractive, to love her and give ourselves for her. The beauty of the face of the Church consists in reflecting the face of her Lord. The New Jerusalem is not just something in the future. It needs to be prefigured and anticipated already, here and now.

Our task is that of being in the Church, or rather being Church, working with the Church and for the Church.

The challenge is precisely that of making people, especially young people, fall in love with the Church, of seeing that Christ shines through her and she takes on the appearance of “heavenly Jerusalem” (Acts 21, 10-23) :

- \* a community of believers renewed by the breath of the Spirit, which gives life;
- \* a community enriched by many vocations, charisms and ministries;
- \* a community open and welcoming, especially toward the poor;
- \* a community that lives with passion for life, justice and solidarity;
- \* a community that is the leaven of hope for a society worthy of man, and for a culture rich in moral and spiritual values;
- \* a young Church, in which the young feel at home, part of the family.

Take your place in the Church, not just as objects of pastoral concern for the Church, but as active protagonists in her mission. (cf. *Christifideles Laici*, 46) The Church is yours, or rather you yourselves are the Church!” (John Paul II. Message for the V World Youth Day, 1990)

**Rejuvenate the Church** means returning to her origins, to her youth, so that she might reacquire her credibility and the ability to listen. She ought to be a Church marked by *witness, evangelization, liturgy, and service*, according to the lines traced out in the Acts of the Apostles.

**Rejuvenate the Church** means to make her a home for the young, insisting on the mystagogia path toward her. Here some icon might be developed, such as that of the disciples

on the way to Emmaus, in the sense that the Church is the home of those who believe in Jesus and want to

live and bear witness to this faith in common. It is an exhortation to make the Church young and to ensure that the young are Church.

**...to make the Church young...to ensure that the young are Church.**



# Being Young at Heart

by Leslie Satter

To see the innocence and joy of childhood is to smile. What is it about babies, human or animal, that causes a sense of joy and nurturing in us? It is a strong, natural impulse enjoyed by all who are fortunate enough to find themselves in the presence of beginning life. Often this feeling is accompanied by a sense of wistful reverie, and longing for our own childhood. What a wonderful aspect of our human nature. Without these pleasant reminders we may run the risk of forgetting innocent joy and wonderment at the world.

I think, however, that at times we see the youth movement in the Church in a slightly different way. Often our urge to catechize youth is accompanied by a feeling of insecurity. We cannot drop the baton in the relay, but must pass it to the next runner. We cannot let the Church down by neglecting to bring the next generation into the light of Faith. Youth ministers worry, "Am I doing this effectively? Am I working hard enough?" Don't get me wrong. Youth ministry is definitely hard work, and it is necessary to bring new generations along with us, but what about that smile at a new being discovering and exploring their world?

To be Salesian is to be young with the young. A Salesian cannot "pretend" to enjoy youth, but must be authentically joy-filled to be with them. As Salesians we must never forget how it feels to be young. I would like my own mind-set to be continually filled with wonderment at their wonderment, curiosity about their curiosity, enthusiasm for their enthusiasm, outrage along with their outrage at the injustice in their world. However, there are days when their enthusiasm is a source of exhaustion for me, and their search goes too far afield for me to reach them the way I think I should be able to. At times like these I chide myself: "Why do you expect them to be anything but normal? Enjoy them! Be with them in their wonderment, enthusiasm and joy. Just

be there, or you will miss these moments. Don't miss the opportunity to smile."

As educators and youth ministers we sometimes forget that we, too, are still learners on a spiritual journey, not toward adulthood, but toward the wonderment of childlike believers. I will always remember the advice of a senior class I taught back in the mid 1970s. In my own "youthful" enthusiasm I thought I had to provide them with the answers that would make them motivated, responsible adult Catholics. One day they confronted me with the news that I was

too young to have so many answers. In their wisdom they told me that I should enjoy looking for answers and still have lots of questions for my journey. They felt sorry for me, not having enough questions. To them, that meant that I was out of the adventure. I took their advice quite seriously and have never regretted it.

Our purpose, personally and as Church, is the journey and the discoveries we make on the way. Our purpose is not to be right and know what to say. It is not to have answers for everything, but it is to travel onward surrounded by our youth to keep us in touch with the wonderment and joy of discovery around each turn. We need to learn from our young people how to rejuvenate the face of the Church. It all comes down to vision. How do we see our world? Can we see be-

yond the trials of today? Can we perceive purpose in the journey? If we want to rejuvenate the face of the Church, we must rejuvenate our own minds and spirits. Together with our youth, let's create our vision of the journeying Church. Be young at heart!

This issue of the Bulletin honors Youth Ministers, Educators and the youth of our province who have celebrated the young Dominic Savio. Congratulations to all for your efforts at rejuvenation! Happiest New Year!



# National Salesian Youth Ministry

Mary Anne Oehler and Leslie Satter (from *Connections*)

Since the new motto for 2005 urges us to rejuvenate the face of the Church, it seems only fitting that we give a special place to those who work as Salesian Youth Ministers from coast to coast. These individuals serve at many levels, from Diocesan, to Regional, and even National positions. Congratulations to each of them for furthering Don Bosco's works!

**Judy Alvarez** has worked in the field of Youth Ministry since 1975. She began working with the Salesians in 1998 and is currently the Associate Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Salesian Society in the Western Province. Judy is also a member of the Province Youth Ministry Team and a Salesian Co-operator. She resides in Santa Fe Springs, Calif. with her husband, Michael, the current president of St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, Calif., and their two adolescent children.



**Sr. Ann Cassidy, FMA** has been a Salesian Sister for 34 years and has worked with adults and young people in schools, catechetical centers and youth ministry across 7 states. Presently, she works in the Office of Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio as the advocate for middle school youth in all parishes and schools, and is the liaison with the city-wide organization San Antonio Youth Initiatives.

Sr. Ann is an active member of the Region X Youth Ministry Directors, the CYO Athletic Program and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

**Sr. Loretta DeDomenicis, FMA** has been the Director of Adolescent Catechesis in the Catechetical Office of the Archdiocese of New York since 1997. In the spirit of Don Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello, Sr. Loretta has a passion for the young. She is responsible for the formation of Catechists and Youth Ministers in the Archdio-



cese of New York as well as being a resource to the parishes. She organizes retreats for teens, prepares adults for Adolescent Catechesis certification, and organizes Youth Catechetical Congresses for teens and young adults with the help of adult catechists.

**Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB** was introduced to Don Bosco's style of ministry and education when he was a teenager attending a Salesian summer camp. Since then, he has been actively involved in bringing the principles of Don Bosco's preventive system to a variety of settings. Fr. Tom served as chair of the Adult Training and Certification Management Committee in the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) from 1997-2002. He has been a Region I representative in the NFCYM Board of Directors and was recently named Chair of the NFCYM. Currently, Fr. Tom is the Director of the Office of Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Boston, a position he has held since 1991.



**Br. Gerald Meegan, SDB** is in his 6th year as the Diocesan Director for Youth Ministry for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. His main ministry outreach is to be a resource and to offer leadership in Youth Ministry to the youth ministers of the diocese. Within the state of Florida, Br. Gerald is the Chair of the Florida Catholic Conference of Diocesan Directors of Youth Ministry. At the national level he is an active member of the NFCYM and co-chair of the Accreditation and Certification Commission. Br. Gerald conducts youth retreats and leadership workshops throughout Florida.



**Pat Mooney** is the Diocesan Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Dioceses of Monterey, Calif. He is a returning Salesian Lay Volunteer who served one year in Haverstraw, New York and 2.5 years on Colonia Okinawa, Bolivia. Pat is married with two children and he is a Salesian Cooperator.

**Greg “Dobie” Moser** is Executive Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry in Cleveland. He is a Salesian Cooperator with an extensive background in ministering with youth, young adults and families. Dobie has given keynote addresses, workshops and retreats in more than 75 dioceses in 38 states. He is also a consultant to Silver Burdett Ginn publishers, the Sports Initiative, and the ministry partnership of the University of Notre Dame and Neumann College.



**Fr. Mel Trinidad, SDB** was ordained to the priesthood in 1985 in Norwalk, Calif. From 1987-1992 he took on various responsibilities at Don Bosco Tech in Rosemead, CA, including the Filipino Pastoral Ministry in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. From 1992-2000 Fr. Mel’s ministry at Salesian High School in Richmond, Calif. included teaching and Coordinator of Youth Ministry. It was during this time that he realized his special call to “form” youth leaders. Currently Fr. Mel is the coordinator of Youth ministry and a member of the Provincial council of the Salesians of Don Bosco of the Western United States. He resides at St. Joseph Salesian Youth Renewal Center in Rosemead, Calif.



**Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB** has been a Salesian of Don Bosco for 20 years, devoting his time to youth ministry. He has taught high school theology classes, directed youth ministry teams as well as summer camp for 10 years, and is known as an accomplished retreat coordinator. Using comedy and drama, Fr. Steve has a gift for reaching young people. He has been a workshop facilitator at the National Catholic Youth Conference, (NCYC), and a NFCYM Region II presenter this past year. Presently he is the coordinator of Youth Ministries for the Salesian Eastern Province of the of the United States.

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**Kenny Wodzanowski** has served as the Associate Director for Salesian Youth Ministry in the Eastern Province of St. Philip the Apostle in South Orange, NJ, for the past 4 years. His main responsibilities include coordinating, training, forming young teams to animate several leadership retreats, and resourcing and training youth ministers. Kenny also evaluates and assesses the religious education and youth ministry programs. He is a representative for the Province

at all NFCYM functions and was an NFCYM Region II presenter this past year. Kenny has also served as a member on the Youth Ministry Resource Manual Task Group, as well as Youth in Juvenile Detention Centers Task Group.

These dedicated “workers in the fields of the Lord”, and their youthful charges, are in need of and deserve our prayerful support. If you feel the Spirit moving you toward a career in Youth Ministry, please contact your local Salesian community, or one of these Youth Ministers, through the Salesian Bulletin.

**Leigh Sterten’s** professional career in youth ministry began in 1988 when she was hired as parish confirmation coordinator in her home parish of St. Dominic Savio in Bellflower, Calif. Since that time she has worked as a youth ministry coordinator in a northern California parish and in the diocesan offices of Los Angeles and Springfield-Cape Girardeau, where she continues to direct youth ministry. Leigh has presented numerous workshops for both youth and adults at diocesan and national events. At the national level, Leigh was active for 5 years with the Rural Concerns Subcommittee of the NFCYM. She currently serves as a member of the NFCYM’s publishing management committee. Much of Leigh’s speaking and training efforts focus on developing leadership in young people and fostering youth ministry in rural and small town settings. Leigh is co-founder and co-director of Ministry Training Source, a nonprofit organization committed to the education and formation of lay ecclesial ministers.



**Priests and brothers have one and the same vocation – to strive for personal holiness through charitable work on behalf of the young and the poor.**

Don Bosco

# Celebrating Community—Salesian Style

## Seminar on the Spirituality of Communion San Antonio, Texas

by Sr. Rachel Crotti, FMA.

The week Salesian sisters spent together in San Antonio was filled to overflowing with prayer, reading, reflection, small group sharing, general assemblies, delicious meals, culturally enriching recreations, and even moments to share with old and new friends! We were 37 participants in all. **Sr. Carmen Botello**, Seminar Coordinator, the Provincial Team and our postulants and aspirants outdid themselves in planning, preparing and making each day come to life uniquely. **Fr. Ramon Zarate, SDB**, was present throughout the week to capture the many memorable moments on video and to celebrate daily Mass. Each of the five provinces present—Canada, Eastern USA, Western USA, Haiti and Australia/Samoa—introduced themselves and directed their assigned day of prayer in a creative and distinctive manner based on the themes set forth by the General Council and presented by both local Sisters and General Council Members and Consultants from Rome:

1. *Discernment/Accompaniment*—**Sr. Maria de los Angeles Contreras/Sr. Wilma De Souza**
2. *Evangelization*—**Sr. Loretta DeDomenicis** and **Sr. Theresa Kelly**
3. *Educommunication*—**Sr. Maria Antonia Chinello** (Rome) and **Sr. Louise Passero**
4. *Interculturation*—**Sr. Bernadette Sangma**

The week began with the experience of *Lectio Divina* and Remembering our Charism. **Fr. Joe Boenzi, SDB** and **Sr. Edna Mary MacDonald** guided the prayerfully rich experience.

A representation of FMA lay collaborators from California and Texas gave their personal testimony of how the Salesian Spirit has impacted their lives. Each story was moving and unique and most had a fine touch of family humor. When **Fernando Montemayor** (brother to Salesian **Fr. Ted Montemayor** and cousin of **Sr. Carmen Botello**) told his story he simply stated a profound truth as he mentioned that when he was a boy **Sr. Rosalba Garcia** invited his group to come to Mary Help of Christians in Laredo to play sports. “We were drawn by her energetic personality. She did not let

us stop there but brought us to the Lord.” Other laity who spoke were: **Susie Bristow**, **Michelle Graves-Verbic**, **Mary Jo Niger**, **Roy Gomez**, **Rosario Davila**, **Larry Kennedy**, **Mary Anne Valentino-Oehler**, **Annie Gomez-Vazquez**, sister of **Sr. Carmen Botello**, **Veronica Greenwood**, sister of **Sr. Mary Link**.

Each day was intense but also enjoyable and interspersed with happy surprises such as an Asian costume parade and delicious cuisine, a celebration of Tex-Mex food, song and dancing and an evening performance by **Gerardo Diaz**, a past-pupil and renowned horse trainer.

After several days of working through the seminar themes, we met together in Province groups to discuss how to tell our “seminar story” and thus continue the experience.

On the final day **Mary Ann Valentino-Oehler**, development director, planned a restful and enjoyable outing to Mission San Antonio, San Fernando Cathedral, and the Riverwalk. The day ended with a Texan Barbeque!

At the end of the week when each Province met to see how their seminar could be integrated in the respective provinces, the question was not “what material do we present?” but rather “How can

we best communicate the experience we had here?” It is said that the process can be the result and indeed it was. We did not come to learn something new but rather to experience the spirituality of communion in our Salesian style, and we surely did! We experienced a passionate sense of belonging based on Communion with God, which gives vitality to our living together in community, and energizes us for our mission among and with the young.

In her closing remarks, **Sr. Phyllis Neves**, Provincial of the host province, reminded us that “small steps with great heart are in the capability of us all.” We had a marvelous experience of the spirituality of communion and we left the Seminar with the challenge to keep the experience alive in our communities.



Seminar participants relax in San Antonio, TX after a week of rewarding efforts.

# A YOUTHFUL PILGRIMAGE TO

by Claude LeBlanc, Don Bosco Tech, Judy Alvarez, Youth Minister, and Fr. Steve Gomez, Salesian High school.



*Salesian youth join hands in prayer.*

**S**eptember 24, 2004 was no ordinary day. The Triduum 2004 Steering Committee had planned it for months without being certain how it would turn out. They were attempting something that had never been done before. Would their plans work? Would everyone arrive on time? Had something been forgotten? Here are impressions of that day from myself and other Salesian educators in attendance.

**We came as pilgrims.** In all, we numbered more than 2500 high school and junior high school youth and adults, who arrived on over 40 buses from the Salesian schools, parishes and youth centers of Southern California. We came together at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the canonization of Saint Dominic Savio, and our challenge was to “Get Real,” to live the Christian call to holiness with joy. Elias Aguilar of St. Dominic Savio Youth Ministry shared, “It makes me feel awesome to know that a lot of teens like me would gather in the cathedral to pray to God. I am not the only crazy Catholic teenager! That is cool.”

**We gathered as church.** Before the Eucharistic liturgy began, Reverend Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik, pastor, welcomed the standing room only assembly as the largest gathering of youth in the just over two year history of the cathedral. Then, with incense rising, the seventy member choir leading us in *Malo! Malo! Thanks Be To God!*, and banners representing several of the holy and saintly youth of the Salesian family, the main celebrant, Most Reverend Joseph Sartoris, retired Auxiliary Bishop

of Los Angeles, and over twenty Salesian priests processed into the cathedral. The Bishop greeted us by saying he was honored to see the cathedral packed with young people, but that we were all honored to have such a joyful hero as Saint Dominic Savio to emulate. Then followed the Sprinkling Rite reminding us of our baptismal call to holiness.

**We worshipped as family.** The readings, psalm, and acclamations were well prepared and done in a spirit of solemnity. Johnny Rodriguez, freshman at Don Bosco Tech, said that he was glad to see the youth “*actually respond to the readings.*” In his homily, the Bishop reminded us that, like Saint Dominic Savio, we too can live holy lives, no matter how young or ordinary we are. Bishop Sartoris gave us four points from the life of Dominic Savio to remember. We need to believe that: 1) God loves us, 2) we can become holy wherever we find ourselves, 3) we need good role models, and 4) we need to develop love for our fellow students and co-workers.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist it was moving to see the sincerity and unity of worship of the gathered Salesian Family. Paul Luna, Don Bosco Tech freshman, remarked that he was surprised to see “*everyone responding, praying, and singing*” during the liturgy.

**We left renewed.** Following communion, Fr. David Purdy, provincial, joked that “*anyone who gathers over 1000 youth in the same place is either crazy or a Salesian.*” We chuckled, because we knew it was true. As the closing song began, the assembly, aware that something awesome had taken place, broke out in spontaneous and joyful applause. Some cred-



*Worshipping and praying as a family marked the memorable day.*

# HONOR A YOUTHFUL SAINT

ited the work of the Holy Spirit, others, the intercession of Mary, Help of Christians, and still others, that Don Bosco and St. Dominic Savio were themselves present and celebrating that remarkable day with us. Whatever it was, the hard work of those who prepared the day was obvious. It was a day that will never be forgotten by Martha Ayala of St. Dominic Savio Youth Ministry, who remarked: *"I was astonished at how beautiful the ceremony was. It made me realize how I can become a better person."*

Following the joyous celebration Fr. Steve Gomez talked to some students of Salesian High School and heard these responses.

*I thought the Mass was very interesting... to see the power of the Salesian Schools coming together as one. If St. John Bosco were alive he would be so proud to see his Salesian family working as one...*

-Patrick Hernandez- '05

*I was impressed with all the people that were in the Cathedral and how everyone was so respectful toward one another and toward the priests.* -Chris Devora - '06

*The trip to the Cathedral... was real special. Although Mass is always special, sharing it with our brother schools made it that much more special.* - Leo Hildalgo - '05

*The Mass at the Cathedral was very enlightening in many ways. I have never seen so many people join hands for one cause to make the world we live in a better place.* - Frank Mejia - '05



Bishop Joseph Sartoris receive the Offertory gifts.



The musicians and choir led everyone in enthusiastic participation.

*Mass at the Cathedral was awesome! It made me feel proud seeing many students form different high schools. It made for a stunning atmosphere. I felt God inside me, like in my heart. I felt like he was saying thank you for being there. Bishop Sartoris made the Mass exciting talking about Dominic Savio and how we have to at least do some things he did.* - Jose Villafuerte - '05

*My reaction to the Mass at the Cathedral was like WOW! I never imagined seeing so many people celebrate the canonization of Dominic Savio. ... I especially enjoyed the company of my friends that day.*

- Jose Perez - '06

*Salesian Schools coming together as one. If St. John Bosco were alive he would be so proud to see his Salesian family working as one...*

-Patrick Hernandez- '05

*I was impressed with all the people that were in the Cathedral and how everyone was so respectful toward one another and toward the priests.* -Chris Devora - '06

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# The Power of Youth

On October 1, 2004, the Southern California combined faculties of St. John Bosco, Salesian High School and Don Bosco Tech, gathered for their annual seminar. This year's presenter was Mr. Dan Horn, Principal of St. Genevieve High School in Van Nuys, Calif. Mr. Horn is an exceptional administrator who has facilitated changes of heart and presence among his own faculty at St. Genevieve, helping to create a true educational community.

During the day Mr. Horn presented an overview of the social, familial, economic and political situations of our students. He concluded with encouragement to all of us as we grow toward a real presence to our youth. The following are some of his major points:

Our freshmen, born between 1989 and 1990, have never known a world without AIDS. They began using a computer at kindergarten or before, and they grew up during the most vibrant and healthy economy in the history of the country.

Today our students are living in the Ellis Island of the 21st century. The greatest population wave of immigrants in the U.S. entered through Ellis Island from Central and Eastern Europe between the years 1860 and 1910. The number of immigrants entering the U.S. from Central and South America between the years 1970 and 2020 is projected to be equal or greater than those who entered through Ellis Island. The dominant entry point of this second wave of immigrants is the Southwestern United States, and specifically Southern California. Many of our students have grown up in homes where English was not the primary language, and many have grown up in homes where English has not been spoken by their parents or grandparents.

Every child now grows up with the possibility of the divorce of his or her parents. Therefore, children need to be able to adapt to step parents, step siblings, alternating parental visitations, and different styles of discipline. They must also learn to deal with guilt, anger and feelings of being deserted, or actual abandonment by a parent.



*Fr. Jose Lucero, SDB and faculties of St. John Bosco, Salesian High School and Don Bosco Tech, gathered for their annual seminar.*

Today's youth have been taught that we live in a democracy where anyone can grow up to be president, yet we have never had anyone other than a white male be elected to that office.

At home the average high school freshmen have watched 15,000 hours of television. This contributes to weak social skills, superficial and shallow analysis of problems and immunity to the impact of violence. In a typical half-hour sitcom they are exposed to verbal violence in the form of 20-40 derogatory or sarcastic remarks. Commercial television stops the program every twelve minutes, which means that they have been conditioned to have 12 minute attention spans. Television viewing has substituted for play time which means that essential social skill-building is lost. Our students are growing up on a steady diet of "reality television." Producers will have us believe that reality is based on conflict. They will further have us believe that conflict is best handled by yelling, name calling, and even violence.

Now for the topic most familiar to us here their schools. Most schools make as few changes as possible, prizing standardized test scores over critical thinking and creativity. We judge the success of a school by how many students go to college, which colleges, and how many scholarships are awarded. We judge our students' success by how many answers they get right and how much information they can commit to memory. Our students are growing up in an era when most high school

# our Presence

*- A Presentation by Dan Horn. Written by Leslie Satter.*

students, more than 75%, admit to cheating in school, and believe there is nothing wrong if you don't get caught.

Let's look at the athletes our young people admire. They were in second grade when Mike Tyson made a meal out of the ear of opponent Evander Holyfield. They were in 8th grade when Laker star Kobe Bryant was accused of rape and admitted to having been unfaithful to his wife. Within the last year, Olympic sprinter, Marion Jones and baseball great, Barry Bonds, have both had their integrity and accomplishments challenged because of possible use of performance enhancing drugs. Only this last Fall Dodger, Milton Bradley was suspended for several games for losing his temper, throwing down a bottle after fans taunted him. Our students are learning to win at all costs instead of achieving victory with honor.

Other significant events in their short lives have also been devastating to their views of the world around them. They were in 2nd grade when the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal filled the news, and in 3rd grade when the President of the United States was impeached by the House of Representatives for lying to a grand jury. They were in 4th grade when Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris became infamous for the Columbine High School massacre. They were in 6th grade on September 11, 2001, and became the first generation of American children to experience being attacked on their home ground since the Civil War.

Even their Church has undergone strife during their lives. They are the first generation of Catholic children to witness their Church admit that in the past Church leaders had not dealt wisely with child predator priests. They are living in a time when fewer and fewer men and women are choosing religious vocations.

There are more lawsuits than ever before, and schools are the number one most litigated against institutions in the country. Parents often behave more as their child's attorney than as a parent. Accepting responsibility or admitting fault

is no longer the norm, instead, we have become a nation of excuse makers and blamers.

Today knowledge, particularly scientific knowledge, is expanding at an astronomical rate. The sum total of human knowledge doubles in less than two years, and new information is being discovered so fast that it is probable that a student will know a smaller percentage of all human knowledge when he graduates than when he entered secondary school. This brings upon us the need for lifelong learning, and the need for the ability to be constantly adjusting to change. This is the challenge facing Salesian educators. In your schools efforts are made to supply the legitimate emotional and psychological needs of the young, who seek to belong, to be secure, and to be recognized. Belongingness, security and recognition are attained in this system of education by the confidence generated through this interpersonal relationship between pupils and teachers who, in Don Bosco's words, are like 'loving fathers', encouraging and praising at the proper moment. We all need to live a purpose driven life. You must make a counter-culture decision to focus on becoming more like Jesus. Otherwise, other forces, like peers, parents, co-workers and culture will try to mold you into their image. God expects unity, not uniformity, and we can walk arm-in-arm without seeing eye-to-eye. (Rick Warren)



*Dan Horn addressed the combine faculties of Southern California Schools.*



*CWU Professor George Bellah demonstrates a falling technique used by professional stage actors. Colin Brochard, 11th Grader, is taught to get close to the ground and “roll down” on his side in order to minimize injury.*

# New Advances @ Salesian High School, Richmond.

## SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA STUDENTS IN RICHMOND, HAVE TAKEN UP FENCING

On the heels of the new school year, Fr. Jesse Montes’ drama students headed back to class a week early, but it wasn’t your typical week in class. Students were taught the art of sword fighting and proper safety techniques when falling down onstage during a fight sequence.

Central Washington University Associate Professor George Bellah spent the week with Salesian’s Drama students teaching them the nuances of stage fighting and the art of convincing an audience that things aren’t always as they appear.

“It’s harder than it looks,” said 12th Grader Foster Davis, “You think all you have to do is fall down on cue; Mr. Bellah taught us the right ways to fall so we don’t hurt ourselves, but also make a loud thump when we hit the floor so the audience thinks we fell really hard.”

The swords and stage fighting training were part of the students’ training for the play *“The Three Musketeers.”* Students performed the play in the evenings November 4th, 5th, and 6th in Salesian’s Auditorium, with Carson Fuller as D’Artagnan, Chris Juridico as Athos, Matt Owen as Aramis, and Foster Davis as Portos. Lizett Billostas portrayed Lady De Winter, Ehsan Habib was Rochefort, Cardinal Richelieu was Samir Juha, and Carmen Merport was Constance.

While Fr. Jesse and Mr. Bellah were taking summer classes at CWU working on his Master’s in Theatre Production for high school teachers. Fr. Jesse took Mr. Bellah’s course in stage.

## ART DEPARTMENT

While Salesian High School’s students spent the summer enjoying the break away from the classroom, the same can’t be said for faculty members of Salesian’s Art Department.

After receiving a \$25,000 grant from Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation and Target Foundation, Salesian’s art teachers spent the summer months purchasing a Mobile Digital Media Studio and training on the new equipment.

“The equipment was much needed,” said Dina Trombetta, Department Chair. “Our Advanced Placement Art students were at risk of no longer being able to earn college credits for our AP Art classes.” Trombetta said many state universities and colleges had increased their AP requirements to include three dimensional art, but before the Mobile Digital Media Studio, Salesian had limited 3-D Art classes.

The Mobile Digital Media Studio includes 12 laptop computers, digital cameras, multimedia projectors, a scanner, wireless internet capabilities, and a high quality color printer. All components of the Mobile Digital Media Studio are secure cart that can be used to transport the equipment from room-to-room for versatile and maximum use. “We’re still learning the ins and outs of the new equipment, but each of us is continuing our training and we will be taking formal training classes as the 2004-2005 school year goes on,” added Trombetta. “Ms. Osenga and Mrs. Shushan are already using the equipment in their classes — we simply can’t wait to show our program funders what our students can do with the investment the funders have made — we are grateful.”

All students at Salesian will benefit from the Mobile Digital Media Studio during their four years at Salesian High, as each student is required to take at least one Art class while in high school.



*(L-R) Debra Shushan, Katie Osenga, and Dina Trombetta unpack and prepare the Mobile Digital Media Studio for their Art students.*

## **COACHES FAY, MELLIS ACQUIRE CPR, DEFIBRIL-LATOR CERTIFICATIONS**

This past summer, health teachers and Salesian coaches Katherine Fay and Bill Mellis brushed up on their CPR training skills and also acquired trainer certifications for CPR and automated external defibrillators (AED).

Fay and Mellis participated in this continuing education as part of an expansion of the Health curriculum at Salesian High School, generously supported by a San Francisco medical doctor, John Brown.

Last year, Dr. Brown contacted Salesian wanting to support a CPR program in memory of his deceased father who had longtime ties with the Salesians of Don Bosco. Dr. Brown visited Salesian High and met with Coaches Fay and Mellis; he decided not only to support the CPR program but to purchase an automated external defibrillator for the school to have on campus. He also helped arrange for the professional training Fay and Mellis received this past summer.

“Now Coach Fay and I are certified through the American Heart Association to train and certify students, faculty and staff on the use of an AED,” said Mellis.

Dr. Brown says it is important for our students to know how to use an AED and to perform CPR. Many private businesses, like shopping malls and sports arenas, have already installed AEDs for emergency situations.

Coach Fay says the AED Salesian purchased is designed for simple, error free operation. Students will begin training on the AED this year.



*Coaches Katherine Fay and Bill Mellis show off their latest members to Salesians health classes: a CPR mannequin and an automated defibrillator.*

## 16 Novices Professed from Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

**Ondo, Nigeria.** On August 4<sup>th</sup> 16 young Africans made their first religious profession. The event represents a first for what is now designated as the Africa West Province, a group of countries that formerly came directly under the mission outreach of a number of provinces: Great Britain, United States, Germany and Italy. The Africa West province was formed in December 2003, meaning that each of the novices began their novitiate as member of their respective provinces at the time. Five of the newly professed are from Sierra Leone, and hence were admitted to the novitiate as members of the San Francisco Province.

## Former Child Soldiers have not yet returned home.

**Monrovia, Liberia.** Salesians, through their Don Bosco Homes project, are working to help the ex child soldiers return to a normal life. These child soldiers uprooted from their families and thrust into the Liberian civil war are still in refugee camps. They are frightened at the thought of returning home. The director of the Homes project, Allen Lincoln, a lay collaborator of the Salesians, says: "We are concerned about their return home and their rehabilitation." The youngsters themselves, he adds, are afraid of having to back without there being any safety measures in place. In addition the lack of schools and community structures won't help them fit in again.



By Fr. Ralph Murphy, SDB

## The Beatification of Albert Marvelli, a Salesian Past Pupil.

**Rome, Italy.** On Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004, Pope John Paul II, during the National Pilgrimage of Catholic Action, beatified Albert Marvelli. The life of Albert is a life fully lived with the ideals of social dynamism and Christian witnessing. The members of the Salesian Family think of Albert as the figure of an exemplary Past Pupil – both for the length of his contact with the Salesians (which he kept up until the end of his life), and for the extraordinary success of his life, which was shaped by the formation at the oratory in educative, social and political fields.

## Cardinal Obando Bravo Proposed for the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Managua, Nicaragua.** The Sandinista leader, Daniel Ortega, in former times a bitter enemy of the Salesian Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo, and president of Nicaragua between 1979 and 1990, has proposed the archbishop of Managua as a candidate for the Nobel peace prize, "in recognition of his fight for national reconciliation." Ortega launched his proposal after a meeting with the Cardinal who, he said, "has been the determining element in the efforts made during the Sandinista Government, to sign a peace agreement with the counter-revolutionary elements." During the

meeting the Sandinista leader invited the Cardinal to preside at a Mass to commemorate the 45,000 who died during the conflict between the Sandinista Government and the groups called "contrarrevolucionarios".

## Austrian President a Salesian Past Pupil.

**Vienna, Austria.** The Salesian Family in Austria remembers Thomas Klestil, President of the Republic who from his youth has been linked with the Salesians of Don Bosco. It was on July 5, 2004 that a dramatic rescue operation began on the football fields of the Don Bosco House in Vienna. "We were pleased to be able to make our contribution to helping the President by making the playing fields of our house available for the rescue helicopter which came to provide medical attention to Mr. Klestil," said Fr. Franz Woss, Salesian provincial. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger attended the president's funeral in Vienna.

## Centenary of the Death of Fr. Antonio Bellone

Fr. Antonio Bellone died on August 9, 1903 in the homeland of Jesus. In 1859, As a diocesan priest he went to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem to teach in the seminary. He soon began to collect orphans together and in 1864 he founded a small orphanage, followed by an agricultural school and a house in Cremisan which eventually became a school of theology for Salesians. In 1874 he founded a religious family, The Holy Family, whose 60 members joined the Salesians in 1891. Among these were Rafeale Piperni and Andrea Bergeretti. Fr. Piperni was the head of the "missionary band" that inaugurated the Salesian work in the United States at SS. Peter and Paul Church in 1897. Fr. Bergeretti, who worked in Australia, Brazil and Venezuela, came to the United States in 1902 and opened Salesian works on behalf of immigrants and youth in Oakland, assisting Portuguese, Mexican and Italian communities in the East Bay. These two followers of Canon Bellone laid the foundation for Salesian outreach on the West Coast, especially among immigrant and marginal youth.



*Frs. Frank Moloney and Salvatore Giacomini congratulate Fr. Joseph Farias for his 50 years of Salesian life.*

## Celebration and Thanksgiving

**San Francisco, Calif.** 2004 marked an important point in the lives of some of our dedicated Salesians of the San Francisco Province. Our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations go out to Fr. Gabriel Zavattaro for 78 years of religious profession and 70 of priesthood; to Fr. Paul Maniscalco for 70 years of religious profession and 60 of priesthood; to Br. Rudy

Bertagnolli for 60 years of religious profession; to Fr. Joseph Farias and Fr. Carmine Vairo for 50 years of religious profession, and Fr. Paul Caporali for 50 years of priesthood. Celebrating 40 years of religious profession are Br. Michael Herbers, Fr. Juan Munoz, Br. Gene Mylan and Fr. Francis Preston. Celebrating 25 years of priesthood are Fr. Joseph Boenzi, Fr. Robert Delis, Fr. Michael Gergen and Fr. Jesse Montes.

These faithful Sons of Don Bosco have spent a multitude of years among the young and not-so-young of the Church, setting a shining example of faith, hope and charity, as well as the loving kindness of our Father, St. John Bosco.

In a letter composed for this occasion Fr. Esteban Ortiz Gonzalez, SDB, Regional Councilor for Interamerica writes:

"Our Constitutions say that the fidelity

to our religious commitment must be constantly renewed, but absolutely our perseverance is possible only if we support it with a response which we continually renew to the special Covenant that the Lord has made with us. For this reason our thanksgiving is to God, in the first place, because God is the author of perseverance. At the same time you are witnesses of the grace of God, because you have answered with generosity the calling of God. In our days we need witnesses. We need religious that talk with their lives: it is possible to serve God and the young people for all of one's life; we are very happy because our lives are willed with God; we are happy because we have spent our lives for young people, especially for the poorest.

Congratulations, Confreres! God and our Mother, Mary Help of Christians, bless you. May the Lord send many vocations to the San Francisco Province!"

# Around the Province

by Leslie Satter



*Fr. Carmine Vairo celebrating 50 years of religious profession, presiders at the anniversary thanksgiving celebrating at Copus Christi Church, San Francisco.*

*(L-R) Frs. Robert Delis, Jesse Montes, Br. Jene Mylan, Frs. Paul Caporali, Carmine Vairo, Joseph Farias, Paul Maniscalco, Brs. Rudy Bertagnolli, Michael Herbers.*

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