



# Youth Ministry

***The Province Youth Ministry Office along with other members of the Salesian Family and the Salesian Sisters collaborated to provide the province with monthly resources for you to use. Each month each resource will have a video from a member of the Salesian Family, a theme, prayer, saint and call to action. We encourage you to use these monthly resources not only with your young people but young adults as well. If you need further information or help please contact our Province Salesian Youth Ministry Office.***

## **December**

### **Adult Leader:**

As we prepare for the end of the calendar year, for upcoming celebrations and holiday festivities, we prepare also for the coming of Christ at Christmas. God is always with us, but during the season of Advent we acknowledge in a special way that the Word became flesh and came to dwell among us. This is not just something that took place two thousand years ago; Christ continues to make his dwelling among us today. The Advent season is an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the ways in which Emmanuel, "God with us," is present in our lives and how we make that presence known to others. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let us pause and consider: how do we continue to make the Word incarnate today?

### **Adult Leader:**

Have the young people say the opening prayer together.

### **Opening Prayer**

O God, who gave us your only Son to be our Savior,  
You gave him to a world that did not accept him.  
This world in darkness could not see the Light.  
There continues to be great darkness in our world.  
Many young lives live in the shadows of death  
caught in between wars and famine,  
victims of abuse and exploitation.  
He promised us that he has overcome the world,  
a world that he warned would hate those who follow him.  
You have called us to be light for the world,



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and we know that this is a call to push away the darkened corners,  
and reveal your transformative love.

Pour out on us your grace.

Make of us new incarnations of your Son's loving and powerful presence.

As Don Bosco was a light that attracted countless young hearts,

allow our hearts to be enkindled by that same light of the Holy Spirit.

We ask this as we ask all things in the name of your Most Powerful Son,

Our Emmanuel—God with us.

Amen.

**Adult Leader:**

- *Show Video- (given by our own Bro. Damien Ho, SDB)*

*Before showing the video please give a brief intro on Bro. Damien.*

<https://youtu.be/ije7QNXvgAw>

Bro. Damien is currently teaching at Salesian College Prep in Richmond California and has been involved in many leadership programs in the province such as SYLC and Rock Out Youth Poverty.

***Ask your young people the following questions and have a short discussion on their responses.***

1. What does it mean to prepare for Christmas?
2. How do you and your family prepare for Advent?
3. What are some of the challenges that keep us from focusing on preparing for Christmas?



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## **Saintly Role Models**



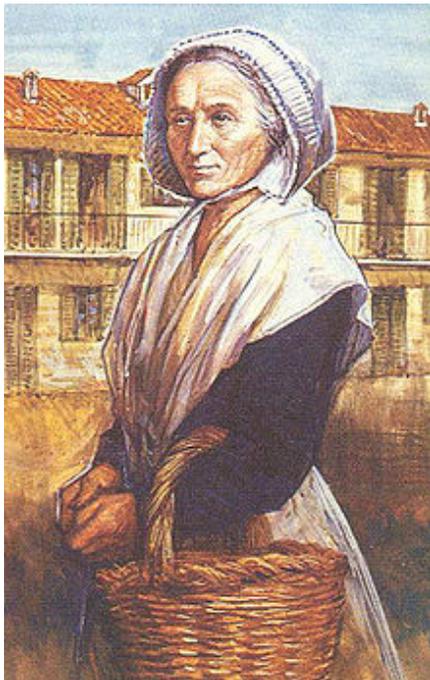
Don Luigi Guanella, was one of the few priests who helped Don Bosco feed some homeless children. Shortly thereafter, he began a pioneer program dealing with rehabilitation of boys and girls abandoned and rejected by society because of their physical and mental disabilities. Fr. Guanella's philosophy in this matter was not entirely based on sophisticated theories but dealt in terms of "action." No one could stop him in this effort. As a talented writer and preacher, he wrote books, articles, and speeches to present to society the problem of those with disabilities and to further their acceptance as brothers and sisters and as blessings from God.

Luigi Guanella was born in Francisco, Italy on December 19, 1842. When he was twelve years old, he entered the seminary and was ordained in 1866. During the time of 1875 until 1878, Don Guanella assisted in St. John Bosco in his care of homeless children, but sometime after that he began a pioneer program dealing with rehabilitation of boys and girls abandoned and rejected by society because of their physical and mental disabilities.

As a talented writer and preacher, he wrote books, articles, and speeches to present to society the problem of those with disabilities and to further their acceptance as brothers and sisters and as blessings from God. He was Fascinated by the Salesian charism, he tried opening a College for the young, but the operation didn't go ahead. However he wanted to stay with Don Bosco, and in 1875 became a Salesian. He was in charge of the "Saint Aloysius" Oratory in Turin, and soon after was appointed Rector of the "Dupraz" College in Trinità (Cuneo).



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## “Mama Margarita or Mama Bosco”

Venerable Margaret Occhiena she was born in a small town in Italy in 1788 to a large family of faithful Christians. At the age of 24, Margaret married a young widower and father, Francis Bosco, who was a farmer and had a son named Anthony. While Antonio served as the bread winner for the family, he also made life difficult for his more studious young brother, John. To keep peace in the family, Margherita convinced Antonio to let John leave home to continue his schooling. She is known as the Servant of God Mama Margarita Occhiena Bosco, is the Mother of the founder of the Salesians of Don Bosco. St. Don Bosco founded the congregation to help the young children of his time to prevent them from sinning and created the Oratory under the patronage of St. Francis De Sales. At the age of 58 she left her home to help her

youngest son to John Bosco, in the assistance of the founding of the Oratory in Turin. Mamma Margherita's presence turned the Oratory into a family. For ten years her life became entwined with that of her son and with the beginnings of Salesian work. She was the first and principal Cooperator of Don Bosco's. She helped the children of the Oratory feel more like a home, she was the greatest help Don Bosco could ever receive a women's intuition into helping all the young in need especially becoming the mother of the Oratory. "The heroism of this great woman, who now lay dying, consisted entirely in mending heaps of clothes, mowing the hay and the grain, washing and cooking. She carried out all those humble tasks, never giving up, always putting her trust in divine Providence... Don Bosco had picked up her system of education; Reason, Religion, and Loving Kindness."

Mama Margaret quotes

"Remember that life consists of suffering. True joys are reserved for eternal life."



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**Leader:**

Ask your young people what stood out about the stories of Don Luigi and Mama Margarita. How can we help others as they did during this advent season.

**Call to Action**

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. It is a time when we examine whether or not the foundation of our life is Jesus. He entered our world and took on flesh so that He could be that rock foundation. And the path to that rock foundation is to listen, comprehend and act. How do you in your life, home, school prepare for the coming of our Savior?

**Leader:**

Encourage your young people to take a picture of examples of how they are preparing for the coming of baby Jesus. Use the hashtags:

#BeSaints  
#IAmSalesian  
#Advent  
#Incarnate

and post to our Instagram page @sym\_USAwest. Have them encourage other young people to do the same.

**Leader:**

Invite the young people to say the closing prayer together. Encourage them to reflect during this Advent season on preparing their hearts for Jesus. How can they share the good message to others of the greatest gift this Christmas...JESUS!



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## Advent Prayer

God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of Your love.  
Help us walk in that love  
During the weeks of Advent,  
as we wait and prepare  
for His coming.  
We pray in the name of  
Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.

## *Advent Prayer*

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