



E-Service

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SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO, PROVINCE OF ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE

March 13, 2014

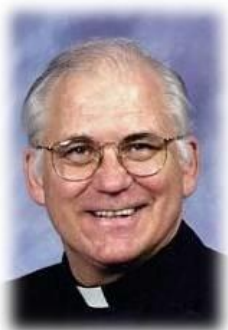


General Chapter

Witnesses to the radical approach of the gospel



Message from Fr. Provincial



General Chapter Process

These days in the 27th General Chapter we are fully immersed in the study, reflection, discussion, and writing that go into the main task of these general chapter gatherings. For this chapter, the theme of *Witnessing to the Gospel in a Radical Manner* has led the members into a process that takes into account the teaching of

Scripture, the situation in our provinces and Congregation, the orientations from the Church, and our Rule and traditions as Salesians of St. John Bosco. Overall, these days have been prayerful moments for all of us.

We are working in committees at present. Each committee has three sub-committees. As each part of our chapter theme comes up (i.e., Mystic, Prophet, and Servant), the committees review the 27th General Chapter working document (prepared by the pre-capitular commission) that brings together the contributions of all the provincial chapters throughout the Congregation. Each committee composes its statement of the chapter theme using the methodology chosen by the chapter for its work: listen; interpret; seek the way ahead. This morning

Provincial's Calendar

Through April 13

27th General Chapter, Rome

Birthday Celebrations

March

- 14 Bro. Charles Thenier
- 15 Bro. Robert Metell
- 17 Fr. Derek Van Daniker
- 18 Fr. Thomas Provenzano
- 19 Bro. Bernard Dubé
- 21 Bro. Leonard Carlino
- 22 Fr. Thomas Dunne
- 26 Fr. Michael Leschinisky
- 27 Bro. Joseph Tortorici
- 29 Fr. Thomas Ruekert
- 29 Fr. Francis Twardzik
- 31 Fr. Donald Delaney

Pray for the Sick

- Fr. Jim Marra
- Fr. Lou Molinelli
- Fr. Philip Pascucci
- Fr. Christian Woerz (SUO)
- Vincent Marra, father of Fr. Jim Marra
- Audrey Morrow, Cooperator
- Helen Baek, mother of Fr. Gus Baek

Remember the Deceased

- Fr. Girard Bonjean, SDB (SUO)
- Sr. Mary Clement Pagliari, CSAC, former drafting teacher at DBT Paterson
- Bill Navarro, brother of Salesian Cooperator Josefa Magrogan



we will gather in plenary session to review the work of the chapter on the second of the themes: Prophets to Fraternity.

A Special Commemoration

Today we in the Catholic Church commemorate a special blessing of the election of Pope Francis. One year ago in our province, many of us were gathered in our provincial chapter. We paused in the afternoon when someone in the assembly noticed that there was white smoke in St. Peter's Square coming from the conclave. "Habemus Papam!"

We remember with gratitude that day when the Church and world were blessed with a new Vicar of Christ on earth, Pope Francis. In the chapter, we have been returning to that day rather frequently in our discussions. By God's grace, so much has changed in the Church since that day! Over the past few weeks, we have read the thoughts of many journalists, theologians, and church leaders reflecting on the ways that Pope Francis has changed the Catholic Church: in its perceptions by the broader world community, in the way the Church serves its people in leadership, in the way we evangelize, in the manner we live out our Baptism as disciples or our consecration as religious.

All of these elements are finding their way into these chapter deliberations. The image, teachings, and witness of Pope Francis are close to the heart of all of us as we discern our way forward as a congregation. Each of us, undoubtedly, has an image or a teaching from Pope Francis over the past year that inspires us to follow Christ in a joyful, simple, transparent, and evangelically effective manner. For me, the recent photo of the Pope getting on the bus with the Curia members on their way to the annual retreat was very meaningful in terms of witness.

Evangelii Gaudium

One struggle that we are having in carrying on these discussions is the fact that all of the documents leading up to this chapter were written before the Holy Father's foundational teaching in *Evangelii Gaudium*. When one comes down to it, this apostolic exhortation has the same general theme as our 27th General Chapter. In our discussions, we find ourselves trying to integrate the valuable insights of this apostolic exhortation into our document. Thank God, our Internet system makes it quite simple to download *Evangelii Gaudium* onto our computers and tablets. I suspect that many of us are "speed-reading" the 52,000 words in this foundational church teaching during our spare time.

Both Fr. Mike Pace and I are grateful for your support and prayers. We can feel their effects as we go about our days here in Rome. Please know that you are in our prayers as well.

Fr. Thomas A. Dunne, SDB
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective March 14, 2013

Fr. Paul Chuong Nguyen, SDB is assigned to the Salesian Community at St. Philip Benizi Parish in Belle Glade, Florida.



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Men in Formation

Prenovice Ronald Chauca

My prenovitiate year has been going great. I love the Holy Rosary community, both religious and parochial, but mainly the new experiences of working with the young. One aspect of my apostolate that I would like to focus on is the classroom. Before this year I did not find teaching in a structured classroom setting appealing at all. I didn't mind doing it, but it would not have been my first choice for an apostolate. Through the religious education program in Holy Rosary Parish, however, I've opened up to this experience; I profoundly enjoy my time in the classroom with the young. Another experience that I enjoyed in a school setting took place at Salesian High School. The prenovices were asked to give an introductory presentation on the life of Don Bosco to the incoming freshman class. I had a great time doing it, and afterwards we hung around the school and talked to some of the students as they left.



Prior to these events, I always envisioned my future Salesian life in a parish setting. After these new experiences, however, I can see that I would like to work in a school setting, seeing it as another great way to influence and interact with the young.

FMA Books Available Again

The Salesian Sisters have made widely available two sets of books that were commissioned for the centennial of Mother Mazzarello's death in 1981. These are Fr. Ferdinand Maccono's two-volume biography of Mother Mazzarello and the five-volume set of the FMAs' early chronicles.



The five volumes of the *Cronistoria: Chronicles of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians* were edited in Italian by Sr. Giselda Capetti, FMA, from voluminous early records concerning Mary Mazzarello, Fr. Dominic Pestarino, and the circle around them at Mornese that developed into the Institute with Don Bosco's assistance and the guidance of some of Don Bosco's fin-

est early Salesians. The American translator is not identified. The period covered is 1828-1888. There are notes and appendices but no index. Don Bosco Multimedia published this paperback set in 1981. The ISBN for the set is 978-0-89944-043-6, and it lists for \$30.00. Individual volumes may be purchased: vols. 1-4 \$8.00 each; vol. 5 \$7.00.

Fr. Ferdinand Maccono, SDB, was the vice postulator of Mary Mazzarello's cause of beatification and canonization. He published several biographies of her over the years, starting in 1912 and finishing in 1940 after her beatification with the version here translated in two volumes by Sr. Catherine Hurley, FMA, as *Saint Mary D. Mazzarello: Co-foundress and First Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*. There are notes, appendices inserted between some chapters, and an index at the back of the second volume. The Sisters had it privately printed in 1980. The paperback set lists for \$20.00 (ISBN 0-89944-191-2), and individual volumes for \$12 each: 0-89944-192-0 (vol. 1) and 0-89944-193-9 (vol. 2).

Either set may be ordered from Salesiana Publishers by e-mailing srmdist@verizon.net or calling 201-986-0503. The usual Salesian discounts are offered. (Salesian Sisters may still obtain copies thru the treasurer's office in Haledon.)



“Do you remember Central Africa?”



BANGUI (ANS) — Due to the violence between armed groups in Bangui, since December 5, 2013, hundreds of thousands of people have sought refuge in institutions that offer a certain security, such as churches and the airport. A Salesian parish and the Don Bosco Center continue to receive refugees, while the Salesian mission office in Madrid has launched the campaign *Do you remember Central Africa?* to raise funds to provide necessary aid.

The Salesian parish of Galabdjia – a neighborhood in Bangui – has four confreres. They run a school and a medical dispensary that is always open. Every night they are host to over 20,000 people. The Don Bosco Center in Damala, also in Bangui, has another four Salesians. They also run a secondary school and a vocational school. They offer shelter to 50,000 people. It is estimated there are 60,000 refugees currently at the airport, but in the past the number reached more than 100,000.

One of the Salesians commented: “In the beginning everything was chaotic in our parish in Galabdjia. Then we were able to organize ourselves with the people of the parish and the neighborhood. Later, with the arrival of the Congolese military and some international institutions such as the Red Cross, Action contre la Faim, WFP, UNICEF, and Doctors without Borders, the situation was brought under control with medical care, food distribution, and sanitation. The situation is still precarious, however.”

It is still difficult to get food. The same Salesian goes on to say: “The last distribution in our parish took place on January 9. That means it’s now two months since we’ve received any food aid. It seems a miracle that people can last that long without fainting.”

Spring break students head to Florida

by Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB



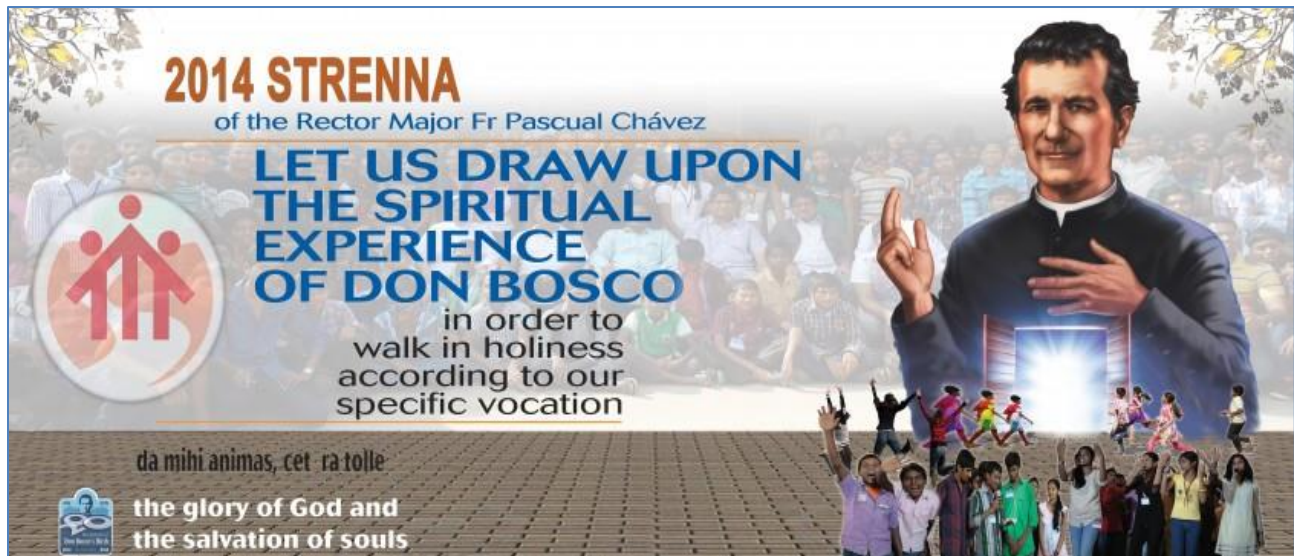
TAMPA, Fla. — Students from the Catholic Student Union at Northeastern University are spending their spring break at Mary Help of Christians Center. In addition to sun and fun, they are working with the Salesians and getting a taste of community life.

There is an even bigger number of displaced people in Damala. One of the Salesians of the Don Bosco Center said: “At the beginning we were completely overwhelmed by the crowd of people who occupied every corner of the playground, the classrooms, and the church.... We had to deal with security issues, water supply, and sanitation services, as well as looking after the injured and removing the dead bodies.... We had to provide accommodation in the community for several priests forced to flee because of the untenable situation in their parishes.”

With regard to religious life, he observed that “despite the daily problems, we have organized our community life and we spend key moments of the day together.... Even in the midst of great difficulties we haven’t lost our peace and we’ve always found support. We have felt the constant motherly assistance of Mary Help of Christians at every moment of this terrible humanitarian crisis.”

To continue to support the needy population of the Central African Republic, the Salesian mission office in Madrid has launched a campaign *Do you remember Central Africa?* Their hope is to draw attention to the serious situation in the country and ask the international community not to pretend not to see.

Salesian Missions in New Rochelle also is providing assistance to the Salesians in Bangui.



You Are Invited to a Salesian Cooperator Day of Formation

Calling All Salesian Cooperators
Day of Formation: April 26
Time: 8:30am to 3:30pm
Mass follows at 4:00pm
Place: Marian Shrine, Stony Point, N.Y.

The Cooperator Day of Formation is a tradition that serves to unite the representatives of the various centers in joint reflection and sharing of the Salesian charism. Specific issues are explored from time to time, always in relation to Church, society, and the everyday life of our mission among the young. This year's theme is taken from the 2014 Strenna: "Let us draw upon the spiritual experience of Don Bosco in order to walk in holiness according to our specific vocation" and this will be the topic of the various talks.

Guest Presenters are:
Nick Magrogan, Salesian Cooperator
Sr. Denise Ann Sickinger, FMA
Fr. Armand Quinto, SDB

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost per Person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30 Make checks payable to: Cooperator Provincial Council • \$75 for accommodations (2 nights) at the Don Bosco Retreat Center. Make checks payable to: Don Bosco Retreat Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration due by: April 18 • Mail checks to: Andrea Zimmerman, 36 Bryant Dr., Livingston, NJ 07039 • Questions: e-mail: andrea.n.zimmerman@us.pwc.com