



Salesian Family Snippets



News of the Salesian Family Near and Far

► POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS DON ÁNGEL CARDINAL

Let us pray for both our Rector Major and our Holy Father.

A UNIQUE AND BLESSED EXPERIENCE

Sr. April Hoffman, FMA, shares news of her time at Vatican Summer Camp.

FINDING MEANING IN THE ACT OF SERVICE

Mr. Joseph Marquez dives into his journey with VIDES.





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IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 1-6: World Youth Day, Fatima, Portugal

Aug. 2: Bl. August Czartoryski

Aug. 4: FMA Renewal of Professions

Aug. 5: FMA First and Perpetual Professions, North Haledon, NJ

Aug. 6: Induction of the new FMA Provincial, Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA

Aug. 12: Induction of the new SDB Provincial, Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB, New Rochelle, NY

Aug. 15: Solemnity of the Assumption
SDB Profession Renewals, Stony Point, NY

Aug. 16: SDB First Professions, Stony Point, NY

Aug. 25: Bl. Maria Troncatti, FMA

Aug. 26: Bl. Ceferino Namuncurá



Visit www.salesians.org to download and view this current this and
<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/sf-snippets-archives/>
to read and download previous editions, including this issue at a later date.

Cover photo courtesy of Ageniza Info Salesiana (ANS) | Top photo on the "In This Issue" page by Fr. Mike Mendel, SDB | Bottom photo courtesy of Canva Pro | End cover photo courtesy of Canva Pro



(from left to right) Don Bosco, Don Ángel, and Pope Francis with St. Peter's Basilica in the background
Photo courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

Pope Francis Appoints Don Ángel Cardinal

The following was written by the Rector Major on 7/12/2023, a day after his appointment as cardinal by Pope Francis.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR MAJOR FR. ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

To all the (SDB) Salesian Confreres and members of the Salesian Family Groups,

Yesterday afternoon, Tuesday, July 11, I was received by Pope Francis. I had a fraternal dialogue with him. As always, the Pope was attentive, cordial, and deeply esteemed the charism of Don Bosco and he was very affectionate. Sentiments that I reciprocated in my own name and that of the entire Salesian Family.

Now I am able to share with the Salesian Congregation and our Family spread throughout the world, the dispositions that the Holy Father communicated to me.

Here they are:

- We can anticipate General Chapter 29 by one year, that is, in February 2025.
- For the good of the Congregation, the Pope deemed that after the Consistory of September 30, 2023, I can continue my service as Rector Major until July 31, 2024, that is until

the conclusion of the summer plenary session of the General Council.

- After this date, I will present my resignation as Rector Major to take on, from the hands of the Holy Father, the service he will entrust to me. This is what the Pope himself communicated to me.
- According to the norms of our Constitutions in article 143, which gives the dispositions in the case of the "cessation of office of the Rector Major," having been called by Pope Francis for another service, my Vicar, Fr. Stefano Martoglio, will take on the government of the Congregation *ad interim* until the celebration of GC 29.
- The General Chapter will be convoked by me at least one year before its celebration, as established by our Constitutions and General Regulations (Reg. III), and my Vicar, Fr. Stefano Martoglio will preside at it.
- For all this time, we will continue to follow the program of the six-year term established for the animation and government of the Congregation. At the conclusion of all the programmed extraordinary visits (including

those relative to the year 2025), the Rector Major, having heard the opinion of the members of the General Council, will proceed to the nomination of another extraordinary visitor. In this way, it will be possible to arrive at GC 29 with a complete and updated picture of the situation of the entire Congregation.

- For all the other elements relative to the General Chapter, I will furnish detailed information in the official letter of convocation of GC29.

In conclusion, it remains for me to give a response to another question that many of you have: what task will the Holy Father entrust to me? Pope Francis has not yet told me. Furthermore, with this broad margin of time, I think this is opportune.

In any case, I ask all of you, dearest confreres and members of the Salesian Family Groups, to continue to intensify your prayer, especially for Pope Francis. He expressly asked for this at the conclusion of the private audience he granted me. I also ask you to pray for all that we will live in this year as a Congregation and as the Salesian Family.

I also ask you to pray for me, who have been placed before the prospect of a new service in the Church, that, as a son of Don Bosco, I accept in filial obedience, without having sought it nor wanted it. Our beloved Father Don Bosco is my witness before the Lord Jesus.

I thank you for the affection and closeness expressed in these days through the numerous messages that have come to me from every part of the world.

From the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, I send you my affectionate and grateful greeting, entrusting all and everyone to her, the Mother, who will continue to accompany and sustain us.

I feel addressed to me the same words that our Lady said to Don Bosco in his dream at nine years of age—of which we will celebrate the second centenary: “In time you will understand everything.” And we know that for our Father this effectively happened almost at the end of his life, before the altar of Mary Help of Christians in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

which had been consecrated the day before, on May 16, 1887.

Let us place all in the hands of the Lord and of His Mother.

With immense affection, I greet you.

Don Ángel



In, With, and For the Church



Updated Materials for the Salesian Family Festival

GATHERED BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA

Explore the latest poster and schedules for this year's Salesian Family Festival on the next two pages!



If you have any questions or would like any information in regard to the festival, please contact Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA, at fmasfdelegate@gmail.com or Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB, at tdunnesdb@me.com.



Salesian FAMILY FESTIVAL OCTOBER 6-9, 2023

"Out of Darkness and Into His Marvelous Light: The Joy of Love" 1 PETER 2:9

venue: Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Ramsey, NJ

Young Adult Track: Ages 18 - 35

MUSIC * BOOK SIGNINGS
*** MASS * KEYNOTE**
SPEAKERS * CONFESSION
AVAILABLE ALL DAY *

ADORATION * WITNESS
TALKS * INTERNATIONAL
FOOD FEST * THEOLOGY
ON TAP AND MORE!



ALL ARE INVITED...
One ticket
FOR ADMISSION
TO ALL THREE DAYS!



IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA
Author, Motivational Speaker



JESSICA COX
Motivational Speaker



SEAN BRYAN
"Papal Ninja"
Motivational Speaker



SHEVIN McCULLOUGH
Studio 3.16 - Actor,
Hip Hop Artist



JEFF M. JOAQUIN
Motivational Speaker



JOSH PARR
Recent Convert to
Catholicism

DAILY SCHEDULES AND WORKSHOP DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT:
donboscosalesianportal.org

All INFORMATION
REGISTER/TICKETS/HOTELS
<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/salesian-family-festival-october-2023/>
fmassdelegate@gmail.com



Salesian Family Festival poster
Created by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA



Salesian FAMILY FESTIVAL

October 6-9, 2023

at Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Rensselaer, NY

Children will be surprised so parents can feel at ease attending their talks and Activities!

"Out of Darkness and Into His Marvelous Light: The Joy of Love" | PETER 2:9

A sneak peek at SOME of what's to come!



High School Outing Day - Friday, October 6: It's All About Relationships - By invitation only!

"God's Infinite Mercy"
"Mending My Relationship with My Dad" - Hip Hop sharing in song
"Be Who You Are and Be That Well"

PRESIDER/HOMILIST AT HOLY MASS
BISHOP MANNY CRUZ, AUXILIARY ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK



Family Festival Main Event - October 6, Evening - Sunday, Oct. 8 afternoon: Living Don Bosco's Way Every Day - All are welcome!

"Don Bosco's Way of Reason, Religion, & Loving-Kindness in the Home, Workplace, Jail, Addiction Center... Everywhere!"
"NFP is Living God's Holy Will and Loving Your Spouse"
"Loving Your LGBTQ+ Neighbor and Remaining Faithful"
"Parental Rights: What Every Family Should Know - and Do"
"Answering the Four Most Pressing Questions of Our Times"
"Overcoming Gender Dysphoria Through Work, Community, & Grace"
"Fame and Living Our Faith: The Papal Ninja Speaks!"
"Forgiveness: The Greatest Trick!" - Magic Presentation
"Delve into the Sacred Beauty of Marriage & Family Life"
Overcoming the Sufferings in Everyone's Life with Faith and Hope

PRESIDER/HOMILIST AT HOLY MASS
BISHOP KEVIN SWEENEY, ORDINARY OF THE DIOCESE OF PATERSON



Salesian Family Convention - Oct. 8 Evening - Oct. 9 afternoon: Doing Mission as Family - For all the Salesian Family!

"The Salesian Matrix: Putting the Light on a Stand"
"Co-Responsibility in Mission as Family with and for families and the young"
Meetings by Group with Each One's World Leadership: SSCC, ADMA, FMA, SDB, Past Pupils

PRESIDER/HOMILIST AT SUNDAY'S HOLY MASS
BISHOP JOHN BONNICI, AUXILIARY ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Confession available all day & Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the entire weekend

DIVERSIFIED OFFERINGS FOR COUPLES, PARENTS, CHILDREN, FAMILIES: PETTING ZOO * MUSIC * WITNESS TALKS * SPEAKERS * CARNIVAL GAMES * ICEBREAKERS



All INFORMATION REGISTER/TICKETS/DONATE

https://donbosco.us.edu/registration/2023/registration-salesian-family-festival-2023/



Salesian Family Festival schedule and speakers
Created by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA



Salesian FAMILY FESTIVAL

October 6-9, 2023

at Don Bosco Preparatory High School, Rensselaer, NY

"Out of Darkness and Into His Marvelous Light: The Joy of Love"



SHEVIN MCCALLOUGH
Shells 3:16 - Actor, Hip Hop Artist



JETT M. JOUHIN
Motivational Speaker



JESSICA COX
Motivational Speaker



SEAN BRYAN
Loy Mission Program, Motivational Speaker



JOSH PARR
Recent Convert to Catholicism

MUSIC * WITNESS TALKS * SPEAKERS * SHARING * CONFESSION * GAMES * MASS * ICEBREAKERS

Family Festival Main Event - Friday Evening Oct. 6 - Sunday Oct. 8 afternoon

Living Don Bosco's Way of Reason, Religion, & Loving Kindness in Our Families and in Our Daily Lives

Confession available all day & Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the entire weekend

For families, young adults, and people of all ages, walks of life, and Vocations

The Outing Day Speakers continue their relation to us and are offering many more meaningful presentations for the rest of the weekend!



BEN S. JEANNE CWING
Author, Speaker



DONNA-MARIE COOPER O'BOYLE
Author, Journalist, Speaker, EWTN Host



IMMACULEE ILBAGIZA
Author, Motivational Speaker



KATHLEEN & TROY BILLINGS
Authors, Speakers



KELLY & RYAN BREAUX
Real Life Mission - Family, Speakers



SHAWN HYLAND
NJ Family Policy Center, Author, Speaker



ALLAN WRIGHT
NJ Family Policy Center, Author, Speaker



GLENN T. STANTON
Father of the Family, Digital Researcher, Author & Director



STEPHEN J. BINZ
Author, Speaker, Biblical Scholar



FR. JERRY JOCZEWICZ
aka "The Priest Magician"

Salesian Family Convention - Sunday afternoon Oct. 8 - Monday afternoon Oct. 9

Doing Mission as Family with parents & the Young

For our Salesian Family & Collaborators



SR. DOMINGO NGUYEN
World SSCC Delegate of the SSCC & FMA USA



SR. LESLYE SANDO
FMA General Coordinator for the Salesian Family



DON JOAN LURIS PLAYA
SSCC World Delegate of the Director Major for the Salesian Family



SR. LUCILECA URISE
FMA World Delegate for the SSCC & ALMA



SR. GABRIELA PATING
FMA World Delegate for the SSCC & FMA



M. CHRISTINE CASTILLON
ESA, FMA World President



SR. RUNTA SOERIA
FMA General Coordinator for Youth Ministry



JUDY & MIKE ALVAREZ
Married Missionary Couple, Salesian Family Youth Center, Presidents of the Commission



JO MONTENEGRO, PH.D
Executive Director, Salesian Family Youth Center



SR. MARY GILLENAN
FMA Author of "The Salesian Matrix"

Support by the Salesian Family of St. Don Bosco in the USA



All INFORMATION REGISTER/TICKETS/HOTELS

https://donbosco.us.edu/registration/2023/registration-salesian-family-festival-2023/



Join us
for the installation of



Fr. Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB

as

Provincial of the
Province of St. Philip the Apostle



Saturday, August 12, 2023
Ten thirty in the morning



SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL CHAPEL
148 EAST MAIN STREET
NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801

Lunch to follow Mass in the Cassin Commons

To RSVP, please call 914-636-4225
or email joannd@salesians.org.



*Advertisement for Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB's installation as provincial of the SUE province
Designed by Miss Julia St. Clair, SUE Province Communications Director*

Come and See Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB's Installation as Provincial

Join the Salesian Family for the installation of Fr. Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB,
as provincial of the Province of St. Philip the Apostle, on Saturday, August 12, at 10:30 am ET.



*Sr. April Hoffman, FMA (center), plays Uno with children at Vatican Summer Camp
Photo courtesy of Sr. April Hoffman, FMA*

A Unique and Blessed Experience at Vatican Summer Camp

BY SR. APRIL HOFFMAN, FMA

Summer—a time to relax, spend time with family and friends, or take a vacation. For us as Salesians, it's synonymous with camp season! I was excited to hear that the Sisters in our community of Casa Canta (the Sisters' international house of studies in our spirituality) in Rome would help out in different provinces around Italy for the month of July. Then, I received my assignment to remain here, for Estate Ragazzi in Vaticano.

The summer camp is only a few years old and started at the request of the Salesian community within the Vatican to offer a space for the children of the employees. This year's theme, "Bee Heroes," is based on the Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (FT) and develops the idea that to be heroes and to be truly human, we have to recognize that God has created all human beings with equality and calls us to live together as brothers and sisters (FT5). To develop this theme, we have been introducing the kids each week to some of our heroes: our Salesian saints! We've also been blessed to receive the visits of two of our heroes, Fr. Ángel Fernandez Artime and Pope Francis!

It is a unique experience in many ways. We meet in Paul VI

Hall, where Pope Francis has his Wednesday audiences when the weather is inclement. It is quite a transformation to see bounce houses, soccer goals, tennis nets, ping pong tables, and giant Legos in the same space where thousands of faithful gather to greet the Pope. I haven't lost my sense of wonder as we pass by St. Peter's Basilica every day, watch the kids getting saluted by the Swiss guards, walk to the pool by climbing the *scala dei morti* (the stairs used to transport a deceased Pope into the basilica) or try to part the sea of tourists in the Vatican Museum to cross with 110 eight-to-ten-year-olds.

For me, one of the most beautiful aspects is the collaboration. We are a team of six Salesians: two priests, two brothers studying theology at the UPS (the Università Pontificia Salesiana—the Salesians of Don Bosco's Pontifical University in Rome), and two FMAs studying Salesian spirituality through the Auxilium (the Salesian Sisters' Pontifical University in Rome). We have built a good rapport with our lay collaborators and the young animators, many of whom are working for the first time



(from left to right) Sr. Odete Quintas, FMA; Pope Francis; and Sr. April Hoffman, FMA
Photo courtesy of Sr. April Hoffman, FMA

with us. It has been refreshing to answer questions about our religious vocation, share our Salesian Preventive System as a method for responding to the young, and witness the transformative power of our Salesian charism at work. We also are strengthened as a community united in prayer every morning with the young people and every afternoon with the Mass together. The witness of having more members of the Salesian Family present is a huge blessing and allows the young to experience a broader dimension of our family spirit.



Sr. Kelly Schuster, FMA, gazes out towards Mornese
Photo courtesy of Sr. Kelly Schuster, FMA

Remembering My Sisters Gratitude During the Second Novitiate

BY SR. KELLY SCHUSTER, FMA

Thank you for your prayers and support during my time in the second novitiate. We have finished our time in Mornese and Nizza. I pray for you all in each place but in a particular way, I prayed for all of the Sisters in our province during the Mass we had at the parish church in Mornese. I am also happy I got to see Sr. Anna from Poland, who happened to be on retreat there at the same time!



(from left to right) Sr. Quynh Pham, FMA; Sr. Kelly Schuster, FMA; and Sr. Melissa Benitez, FMA
Photo courtesy of Sr. Kelly Schuster, FMA

Please pray for Sr. Kelly (SEC Province) and Sr. Quynh and Sr. Melissa (Salesian Sisters West) who will make their perpetual vows on Saturday, August 5.



An Invitation for Past Pupils for Extraordinary General Assembly

FROM THE WORLD CONFEDERATION
OF THE PAST PUPILS OF DON BOSCO

All Past Pupils are invited to the Extraordinary General Assembly in 2024. See and click on five languages invitations to learn more and share with fellow Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

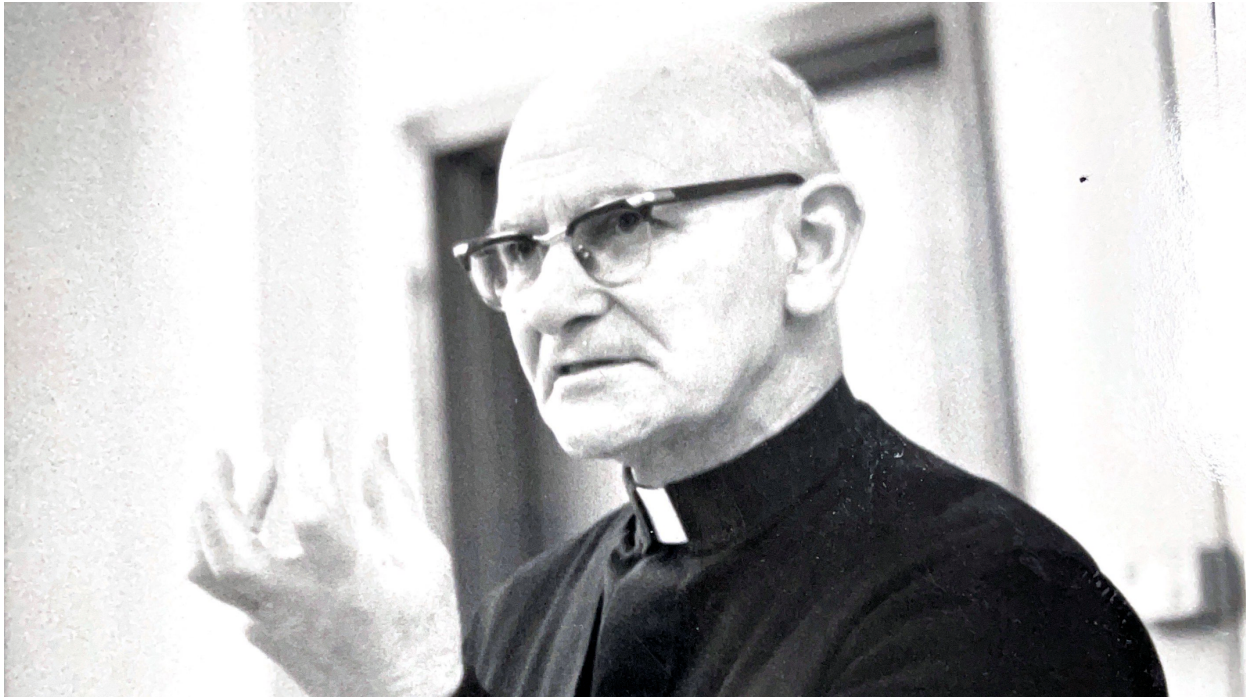
English

Spanish

Italian

Portuguese

French



Fr. Joseph Costanzo, SDB
Photo courtesy of Salesian Provincial Center Archives

Salesian Pioneers of North America Fr. Joseph Costanzo, SDB

BY FR. MIKE MENDEL, SDB

Fr. Joseph Costanzo came to the United States from his native Italy as a seminarian and filled important positions in both U.S. provinces for 61 years. Small of stature, only 5'3", he was a giant in Salesian history in America. Because of his fatherly character, he was nicknamed "Pop" by a generation of confreres whom he formed in New Rochelle and Newton.

Joseph Costanzo was born in the last months of the 19th century, November 6, 1900, in Milan, Italy. He was educated in the Oratory at Valdocco from age 13 to 15 and entered the novitiate at Foglizzo before he turned 16. He made his first profession at Foglizzo on September 15, 1917, and began postnovitiate formation at Martinetto, studying philosophy and at the same time teaching in the "apostolic school" there. He renewed his triennial vows in 1920. During the 1920-1921 academic year, he began theological studies.

Bro. Costanzo arrived in New York as a missionary on August 14, 1921, and continued his formation at the new Salesian school in New Rochelle. He earned a bachelor's degree at Fordham University in 1923, continued his theological studies,

and taught math in the high school. He made perpetual profession in 1922, and he was ordained on September 20, 1924, by Cardinal Hayes at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

As a deacon (1923-1924), then as a priest (1924-1925), he was assistant to the novices. He was also catechist and a house councilor in 1924-1925, then prefect (treasurer and vicar) from 1925 to 1928. In 1928 Fr. Costanzo became director of the New Rochelle community. That responsibility lasted only one year.

With Don Bosco Seminary's opening in Newton, N.J., in 1929, he was sent there as the house's first director; Blessed Philip Rinaldi made the appointment on November 1, 1929. He also filled in as master of novices after Fr. Francis Binelli died in 1931. During this period he made a lasting impression on, among others, young Bernard Justen, who years later continued to speak affectionately of him.

Fr. Paul Aronica, one of the first aspirants in Newton, recalled: "He guided aspirants, novices, philosophy

students and campers with energy, prudence, cheerfulness and understanding. His bubbly laughter was contagious, as was his unshaken optimism." He was "a gentle, careful spiritual director" who "gave Newton its Salesian orientation."

Fr. Paul continued: "I met 'Pop' Costanzo the first morning I woke up in Newton in 1932. Looking at me, he said, 'You're a little small, aren't you?' and then he proceeded to stuff me with breakfast. His friendliness took away all my homesickness and fears." Generous with others, he was austere with himself, e.g., sleeping on the floor. Learned in spirituality, Salesian history, philosophy, and literature, he was an outstanding and demanding teacher.

In 1935, Fr. Costanzo was recalled to New Rochelle to serve again as director. In 1941 he was sent to St. Anthony's Parish in Paterson as director and pastor, but that lasted only a year before he was back in New Rochelle as director for a third time.

In 1944, Fr. Costanzo was transferred to the Western Province to serve as pastor of the Salesians' foundational work in the U.S., Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in San Francisco. His obituary letter (which doesn't bear an author's name) holds that he came into his glory there, able to "wax eloquent with his Italian compatriots" and blossoming as "a pastoral apostle." He paid off the parish's debts even while decorating the church's heretofore "drab" interior.

He remained pastor at Sts. Peter & Paul



Fr. Joseph Costanzo, SDB
Photo courtesy of Salesian Provincial Center Archives

for 11 years, then was sent briefly to Australia as pastor in Engadine (1955-1957). (Australia was a delegation of the San Francisco Province at the time.) He was made director again in 1957, this time of the Salesian school of theology at Aptos, Calif., for two years.

In 1959, Fr. Costanzo tried parish life again at Sacred Heart Church in Vancouver, B.C. The following year (1960-1961) he took up preaching missions for the [Italian Catholic Federation](#). Then he was recalled to Sts. Peter & Paul for another eight years as pastor. Many of the clergy sought him as a confessor. Bishop Mark Hurley of Santa Rosa said, "I doubt very much whether there is another priest in California who has heard more priests' confessions."

In 1969, he became vice provincial (under Fr. Justen), serving for two years. He became director again in 1971 at Bishop Mora Salesian H.S. in East Los Angeles, but after a year was recalled to Sts. Peter & Paul to serve as

director, pastor, and vice provincial once more. That service lasted six years. Toward the end of that period, in October 1976, he wrote to the provincial, Fr. Harry Rasmussen, asking to be relieved "for the good of the parish," which (he said) needed a pastor less Italian and more Italian-American than himself. He'd cleared the way by paying all the debts, and he suggested a replacement. He wanted to return to his "original province" in the East.

Instead, in 1978, he was once more at the service of the Italian Catholic Federation. It was on a mission to preach for the organization in 1982 that he suffered a heart attack at Hanford, Calif., on August 5; he died in the emergency room of the local hospital.

His obituary letter records that Fr. Costanzo would "be remembered in both the Western and Eastern provinces for his spirit of joy, for his feverish apostolic activities, for his deep love for people, and for his genuine Salesian spirituality. As the beloved pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in San Francisco for 23 years, he has left an indelible mark upon the local church. Four bishops participated in his funeral as a sign of their love and esteem for Fr. Costanzo," along with many priests and hundreds of parishioners. He was buried in the Salesian cemetery in Richmond, Calif. He was 81 years old and had been a Salesian for 64 years, 57 years a priest.

Fr. Larry Lorenzoni described Fr. Costanzo as a man "totally detached, totally involved." Detached: In 1943, he'd given then-Bro. Larry his watch when

Brother couldn't tell someone the time; involved: days before his death he'd spent 20 minutes looking over Fr. Larry's shoulder and asking questions as the latter worked on a computer (still a new factor in Salesian life in 1982). Fr. Larry also knew him as a voracious reader and a priest deeply involved in the paschal mystery. In addition to his preaching for the Italian Federation, "he was also involved in a weekly TV talk show, taping dozens of radio talks for a Chicago station, numberless meetings, convent Masses, visits to the elderly and hospitalized"—an activity that "would have taxed the energies of a man half his age!"

At Fr. Costanzo's wake, Fr. Mike Ribotta paid this tribute to him: "If any Salesian confrere lived the Salesian motto '*Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*,' which translates, 'My only interest in life is the good of souls,' it was indeed Fr. Costanzo."



Joseph Marquez (center) during his missionary trip to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania
Photo courtesy of Joseph Marquez

Finding Meaning in the Act of Service Grateful to Be Part of VIDES

BY MR. JOSEPH MARQUEZ,
PRESIDENT, VIDES CANADA; BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEMBER, VIDES INTERNATIONAL

G. K. Chesterton once wrote: "*Meaningless does not come from being weary of pain. Meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure.*" It is when you have exhausted the last dream and still find yourself rather barren and empty.

Everyone desires to be genuinely happy, but most people look for it in the wrong places—acquiring wealth, luxury vacations, or even in relationships. These things may bring temporary happiness, but the feeling quickly fades. And so, the search continues for the next best experience or things to acquire. It becomes a perpetual cycle that often lead to frustration and disillusionment.

Viktor Frankl inspired countless people with his books and lectures on *The Search for Meaning*. People in love are most happy and have boundless energies because there is meaning and purpose in what they do.

I'm Joseph Marquez and I am a volunteer with VIDES Canada. I have had the privilege to serve in seven countries, primarily working with underprivileged youths. My last missionary trip was in Tanzania, where I taught English and math at school in the slums of Dar Es Salaam. There were four hundred students at the school, and I enjoyed being with them. They always had a big smile on their face and their joy was contagious! I remember on my first day, the school organized a welcome song for me. Four hundred children were lined up in various groups and began to sing in unison to welcome me into their community. I was touched by their thoughtfulness and friendly reception.

My time in Dar Es Salaam taught me what it means to be in solidarity with the poor—to be present with them and to care about the things they care about. It also taught me the value of humble obedience and what it means to surrender ourselves to God—allow Him to work in us so that He will be glorified and draw people into a loving relationship with Him.

***"When I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself." -John 12:32***

I am grateful to VIDES Canada and the Salesian community for providing people the opportunity to volunteer overseas and do short-term missionary projects. It is an incredible



Children in Dar Es Salaam enjoy a meal with VIDES
Photo courtesy of Joseph Marquez

experience that enables us to step outside our comfort zones and discover the joy, meaning, and purpose of being able to serve others.

Personally, I have grown in my faith and in my relationship with God as a result of my missionary experience. I learned to trust in Him more and rely on His divine providence in my life. Furthermore, I am able to take the lessons I've learned and apply them in all aspects of my life, including in my career as a banker.



My hope is refreshed, knowing that I am loved beyond measure by the God who created me. And that amid the challenges and difficulties that we must all face in our lives, I know the Lord will grant the necessary graces to overcome all challenges if we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus and abide in His love.



Loving family embraces one another
Photo courtesy of Canva Pro

Parenting the "Don Bosco Way" Part IV, Reason

BY FR. PETER GONSALVES, SDB

The complete article was originally printed in The Examiner of Mumbai in January 2004. With Fr. Peter's permission, we will reprint it here in Salesian Family Snippets one section at a time over the coming months as a means of preparation for our Salesian Family Festival 2023. Please see the April 2023 issue of Salesian Family Snippets for a brief curriculum vitae of Fr. Peter Gonsalves, SDB, and Part I of this article. This article is also available in Spanish, as is the one from last month. Subsequent sections can be found in the successive issues.

N.B. - Fr. Peter has assigned new terms to the traditional ones of the "Preventive System of St. John Bosco." The term "Rapport" replaces that of "Loving-Kindness" in the familiar trinomial of: "Reason, Religion, and Loving-Kindness." "Rapport" is the "third 'R'" of Fr. Peter's trinomial. Further, he gives new nomenclature to our familiar "Preventive System," calling it, instead, the "Expressive System of St. John Bosco." Last, he denotes "Salesian Assistance" as "Presence."

Don Bosco introduced reason as one of the three important pillars of his educational system because he saw its

potential as the factor that balances love on the one hand and faith on the other. Reason safeguards a relationship based on love from degenerating into mere sentimentality or anarchy. Reason also supplies the necessary equilibrium that preserves a believer's faith from fundamentalism. The objection raised in the previous section of this article—about religion spawning a brood of fanatics—is very real, precisely when the believer does not sufficiently develop the capacity to believe intelligently. How can reason be used effectively in the difficult art of parenting? It provides the parent with an excellent disciplinary means to lay down rules for behavior and to ensure that they are followed without having recourse to punishments.

How is this possible?

Becoming a parent is not merely a biological rite of passage that appears natural to many. Becoming a parent also means cultivating a depth of self-knowledge and self-acceptance as the precondition for knowledge and acceptance of spouse and children in marriage and family life. For instance, a father who is unhappy with who he is, is unlikely to be happy with who his wife is or who his children are. This basic lack of self-acceptance is the spark that easily ferments dissension and dissatisfaction in the home.

On the other hand, parental self-knowledge and self-acceptance is the basis on which realistic and effective rules may be drawn up to safeguard a genuine, all-round development in children.

Here are some important tips to keep the rules 'reasonable.'

- 1.) Keep them few or you will curtail spontaneity.
- 2.) Keep them simple.
- 3.) It is best to involve the children in their formulation - especially if they have reached age seven, the 'age of reason.' This will help them to understand the 'purpose' of the rule.
- 4.) Communicate rules clearly with tactful reminders from time to time. (Keeping in mind that children are by nature forgetful)
- 5.) Rules have functional value. They are but an aid to fulfill a purpose outside themselves. It is important to see the larger picture, especially when rules are broken.
- 6.) Rules must be implemented with firmness—though occasional flexibility does help.

7.) If you were in your child's place would you yourself practice the rule you have made? If your answer is 'no,' you have some rethinking to do.

When rules are made without proper understanding, self-knowledge, or knowledge of the child, parents may err by using these same rules as defenses behind which to conceal their own insecurities and complexes. Parents who do not know or accept their children as they are may tend to enforce rules that are foreign to the psychological makeup of the youngsters. Nagging or constant reminders of moments when rules were broken is a misuse of the gift of reason. Nagging can hinder a healthy parent-child relationship and can stifle growth.

Don Bosco's conviction of the importance of rules in the education of young people has to be seen within the context of the two other principles of his educational system, which we have already mentioned, viz., rapport and religion. Only when all three principles are balanced will self-expression and freedom to grow take place. Parents will be happy to be with their children, just as children will feel at home in the company of their parents. The blending of rapport, religion, and reason in family education guarantees the full growth and development of the child.



Part V – "Presence" – will appear in the September issue of Snippets

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Sr. Francine Guilmette, FMA, and Sr. Eileen Joseph, FMA, receive the congratulations of Sisters from their province
Photo by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA

Salesian Family Gatherings *FMA Jubilees*

On Sunday, July 9, the Salesian Sisters celebrated their Jubilees. Congratulations to all Sisters who celebrated the anniversary of their vows!

Explore photos from the day!



**Let Us Rise Up
Through God's Love**



Our Family Album

Requiescat in Pace



Fr. Thomas Provenzano, SDB
Photo by Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB

Fr. Thomas Provenzano, SDB



**Maria Auxilium Christianorum,
ora pro nobis!**



**"Do your ordinary duties
extraordinarily well."**

- St. John Bosco



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IN A WORD, MARY GIVES US HOPE.

Pope Francis