

Canada and Eastern USA



Salesian Family Snippets



News of the Salesian Family Near and Far

▶ **THIS IS LOVE...**

This is the simple and silent good that Don Bosco did.

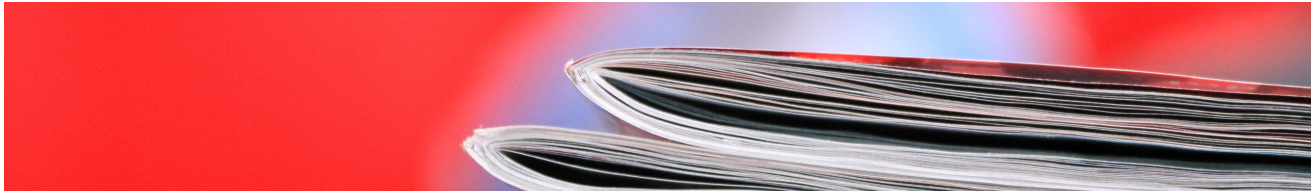
RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Fr. Provincial Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB, of the SUE Province offers guidance and wisdom.

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July 1: Canada Day

July 4: Independence Day

July 7: Bl. Maria Romero, FMA

July 9: FMA Jubilee Celebration, North Haledon, NJ

July 22: Salesian Cooperator Leadership Congress,
Mary Help of Christians Academy,
North Haledon, NJ, and virtually

Visit

<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/sf-snippets-archives/>
to read and download this issue and previous editions.

Photo featured on the "In This Issue" page and front cover courtesy of Canva Pro



*Young people in a refugee camp in Palabek, Uganda
Photo courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)*

This is Love...

This is the simple and silent good that Don Bosco did.
This is the good that we continue to do together.

THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

My friends and readers of the *Salesian Bulletin*,

I'm sending you my cordial greeting, as I do every month. It's a greeting that I prepare by allowing the heart to speak: that heart which wants to continue looking at the Salesian world with the same hope and certainty that Don Bosco himself had—that together we can do much good and that the good that's done must be made known.

Before writing my greeting, I always read all the content of that month's *Salesian Bulletin*. The editors send it to me in advance so that I can write something that takes into account and accords with its theme.

I like **this month's *Bulletin*** very much, with its great variety of articles that give precious testimony to how one can be very Salesian in his/her daily dedication to the Salesian oratory everywhere: on every playground, in every place where young children and teens—and the young adults who animate them—find a space to live life. The oratory is a healthy space, an

educational space, a space that educates for life and to the meaning of life, and a space of faith (if one so desires).

At the same time, however, I felt pain and concern reading the story about Sudan. There, everyone's living in a very difficult situation, including the Salesians. Today, I wish to share in my greeting another beautiful testimony, even though I wasn't an eyewitness this time, but will relate, in turn, what was shared with me.

A Mother's Courage

The scene takes place in Palabek (Uganda). Five years ago, refugees arrived there for the first time, and we, the Salesians of Don Bosco, chose to accompany them. Our house was a tent, and the chapel in which we could pray and celebrate the first holy Mass was the shade of a tree.

Hundreds upon hundreds of refugees arrive at Palabek every day from Sudan, at first because of the conflict in South Sudan. Now, years later, they continue to arrive

because of the conflict in North Sudan.

The person who told me what I am narrating now is the general councilor for the Missions. He had gone to Palabek just days before to accompany our missionaries in this refugee camp where tens of thousands of people live.

Ten days ago a woman arrived with eleven boys and girls. Without any help, she and her children had traversed various regions that are fraught with dangers. As they walked more than 700 kilometers (430 miles) in the prior month, the group of children grew. This is what I wish to point out because this is **HUMANITY** and this is **LOVE**. This woman arrived at Palabek with eleven children under her care and introduced them all as her children. But, in fact, six were the children whom she had carried in her womb. Another three were the children of her brother, who had recently died, and for whom she had assumed the care. Another two were little orphans whom she had found alone along the way, and, of course, without any papers. (Who would give a thought to look for papers and documentation when the most essential things for life are missing!) They became the adopted children of this woman.

Sometimes the title of **MOTHER COURAGE! (COURAGEOUS MOTHER)** is attributed to a mother who gave her all to defend her child to the end. So, too, in this case, I wish to attribute to this mother of eleven children the title of "Mother Courage," but above all "**WOMAN WHO KNOWS VERY WELL**"—in the depths of her heart—"**WHAT IT IS TO LOVE.**" Perhaps she knows that kind of love that lasts "even until it hurts" because she has been living in absolute destitution with these eleven children and still continues to do that.

Welcome to Palabek, Mother Courage (Courageous Mother)! Welcome to our Salesian presence. Undoubtedly, everything possible will be done so that her boys and girls don't lack food and have a place to play and laugh and smile—in the Salesian oratory—and a place to learn in our school.

This is the simple and silent good that Don Bosco did. This is the good that we continue to do together because—believe me!—knowing that we are not alone and certain that many of you welcome and empathize with the efforts we make every day for

the good of others, gives us a lot of human strength. We trust, without a doubt, that the Good Lord makes it grow.

I wish you a good summer. Undoubtedly, ours—mine, too—will be more serene and comfortable than that of this mother from Palabek. But I think I can say that having thought of her and her children, we have somehow built a bridge.

Be very happy.

Don Ángel



In, With, and For the Church



We Celebrate Life Rest in Peace, Mrs. Isabel Artime Garcia

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON ANS 06/27/23

(ANS — **Luanco**) — "This Eucharist is a thanksgiving to God for my mother, in whom we celebrate life." This is how Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians, began the homily at the Requiem Mass for his mother, Isabel Artime, 87, who died on Saturday, June 24. The Mass was celebrated on Monday, June 26, in the parish church at Luanco, a fishing village in Asturias in northern Spain, the place of origin of the Rector Major's family, where Isabel lived.

The Rector Major and his family were accompanied by the members of the General Council, who came from Turin, the Provincial Council of Spain's St. James the Greater Province (SSM), his province of origin, and some 80 Salesians, as well as many friends, neighbors, local inhabitants, and close relatives.



Mrs. Isabel Artime Garcia, the beloved late mother of Don Ángel
Photo courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

"I am convinced that our loved ones are with God, and I want to give this testimony of faith. This certainty gives us profound peace, it gives meaning to our life," Don Ángel said in an emotional homily as he recalled his mother, Isabel, "who, together with my father, always sat in this church, near the altar of Our Lady of Carmel," thus giving "a final touch to a simple life lived in God."

Among the memories and anecdotes of his mother's life, the Rector Major highlighted the example of a simple and hardworking life of faith he received from his parents. Today we thank God that they passed on a wonderful faith to us, a very deep faith, in a simple way. "Their example of life was always the best catechesis," he testified once more, before concluding with a prayer: "Mother, our prayer and that of so many people who love us, we offer for you. Rest in peace in the Lord. We will meet again in Him."

During other moments of the Eucharist, the Rector Major thanked the General Council and many Salesians for their presence, in addition to those in the Salesian Family who offered many expressions of affection in various ways. Gratitude was also emphasized at the end of the Mass by Fr. Stefano Martoglio, Vicar of the Rector Major. He also expressed the closeness of the entire Salesian Family to Fr. Ángel and his family, and pointed out that it is possible to recognize the fruits of this family from the faith of its children; for this reason, he



The Rector Major blesses his mother's coffin with holy water
Photo courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

remarked, remembering the Rector Major's mother, "we are celebrating a life well lived to the end," and concluded by asking Isabel to pray for us.

The religious celebration ended with the sprinkling of holy water in memory of Baptism, and the incensing of the coffin containing the remains of Mrs. Isabel Artime.



Greetings from the Salesian Family Festival Core Team!

BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB,
AND SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA

The date at the top of this communication alerts us to the fact that in **three short months**, we will begin the Salesian Family Festival (October 6-9, 2023). The Festival will be held on the grounds of Don Bosco Prep High School in Ramsey, NJ. We are pleased to announce that the work of developing the festival is complete. We now have to invite all to "come to the feast."



A three-generation family gathering of a former VIDES Volunteer, her parents and siblings, along with their spouses and children

Photo courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

What is the Salesian Family Festival weekend?

- A celebration of family as a path to holiness and human growth with Salesian Family members, lay colleagues, parents, youth, and families.
- A forum for extending Don Bosco's Preventive System to the everyday life of our families.

The Salesian Family Festival Program

Please review the program description, and schedule, and visit the Salesian Family Festival Dedicated page (see link below) for registration, ticket purchase, and hotel reservations:

For English speakers

For Spanish speakers

Download a poster, marketing material, and fundraising for the Salesian Family Festival from the Cloud!

Encourage members of the Salesian Family and members of the active ministry teams in Salesian presences and parishes throughout the US and Canada to take part in the Salesian Family Festival. It is a good time for early registrations, purchasing tickets, and booking hotel rooms. This will be a good way to build up a robust EC or EPC in each of our Salesian presences.

Special days for the official Salesian Family groups and their members

The Salesian Family Festival is a special time for Don Bosco's followers to live the Preventive System in their homes as well as in the apostolate. For the first time, nearly all of the world

leaders in the Salesian Family (*see the poster*) will be together with us at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey to animate, form, and learn from their brothers and sisters in our North American Provinces!

We are pleased to note that Fr. Joan Lluís Playà, SDB, the World Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family, and Sr. Leslye Sàndigo, FMA (World Delegates of the Salesian Family); Br. Dominic Nguyen, SDB; Sr. Lucrecia Uribe, FMA (World Delegates to the Salesian Cooperators and ADMA); Sr. Gabriela Patiño, FMA, World Delegate for the FMA Past Pupils; Carmen Maria Castillon (World President of the FMA Past Pupils); and Sr. Runita Borja, FMA, General Councilor for Youth Ministry, will be with us for these days. It will be important for the Salesian Family in North America to meet these world leaders and to catch from them some of the spirit that is making the Salesian Family grow so quickly around the world.

Please invite and assist the Salesian Family members in your area (including SDBs, FMAs, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, DBVs, Past Pupils) and anyone connected with Don Bosco and family to register, purchase tickets, and take part in this encounter with the worldwide leaders in Don Bosco's Family.

We conclude with an appeal: the Salesian Family Festival is in great need of your gifts of time, talent, and treasure:

- Donations and contributions from generous supporters of family life are gratefully accepted to help us offer this program.
- Volunteers are needed in rather large numbers to provide the many services (small and large) that will be necessary to provide the services of the Festival.

Please feel free to write or call either of the Salesian Family Province Delegates.

In Don Bosco,

Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB tdunnesdb@me.com

Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA sisterdenise2431@gmail.com

Province Delegates to the Salesian Family



*Fr. Provincial Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB, before the Mass of Perpetual Profession, August 2021
Photo by Ms. Victoria Weekley, SUE Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry*

Responding to God's Love **A Message from Fr. Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB**

GATHERED BY MISS JULIA ST. CLAIR, SUE PROVINCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

On Tuesday, June 13, the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, the Rector Major Fr. Àngel Fernández Artime, with the consent of the General Council, appointed Fr. Dominic Danh Cong Tran, SDB, provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Philip the Apostle (SUE). The Salesian Family and the SDBs learned about this appointment the following day. Here are some words from Fr. Dominic about a week after the announcement of his appointment.

I was in Seattle, on my way to Surrey, BC, when I received the news. Fr. Hugo Orozco [The Salesian General Councilor for the Interamerica Region] called me first, followed by the Rector Major.

A few weeks prior, Fr. Dominic celebrated his 20th anniversary as a Salesian priest on May 24, the feast of Mary Help of Christians.

Fr. Àngel told me to take a day to think about it. And after our call ended, the first thing I noticed was a large crucifix with a Rosary in my room. After spending some time in prayer, thinking, and talking with Fr. Tim, I felt it was the will of God [being named provincial]. That brought a sense of trust that

God is calling me to a ministry that is beyond my ability. Yet, it is God's will for me at this point in my life. People have been very supportive. Especially the Rector Major, Fr. Hugo Orozco, and Fr. Tim Zak have been very encouraging.

Fr. Dominic shares his vision for the province and our Salesian Congregation.

Vision is an organic twofold. First, we are part of the Church, where the big vision is the vision of Jesus for the Church. The Pope, as the Vicar of Christ, applies that vision to the reality of the world and the Church at this moment in history. We also have to think of our vision of the Salesians as a Congregation in the Church, and with certain direction from the General Chapters, and emphasized by the Rector Major. Second, the vision is the mission entrusted to the Salesian Family in our Province. The mission that was started and continued, and now entrusted to us. We have a history of 125 years of serving in the Eastern part of the US, and 100 years in Canada. What does this twofold vision mean in our time, in our context?

I pray that we put our mission in the Church as followers of Don Bosco into concrete, practical applications. Particularly, there is a lot of potential with vocations, and we need to get new members to continue the mission of Don Bosco in this province. This means having vocations both to the SDBs and the Salesian Family.

People must see us happy, living as children of God. They must notice that we are enthusiastic and full of trust that God is with us. We want to share that joy with people, especially the young people who God entrusts to us.

We have to be the people who God calls us to be. That would attract people to join and makes us more inviting. We must be on fire, happy, and both convinced of and committed to our mission. Let's embrace our charismatic identity. We must be Salesians who are dedicated to God, the young, and our mission. When we continue to deepen our identity, and when we involve ourselves as being part of the Salesian Family and the Church, young people would see us in mission with conviction. Then, they would consider joining us.

Then we have what the Church is calling us towards. At this moment, in the U.S., the Church invites us to a time of National Eucharistic Revival. One of the pillars of Don Bosco's ministry to the young is the Eucharist, and part of the Salesians' mission is to draw young people to Christ in the Eucharist. This is a great opportunity for everyone in the Salesian Family to embrace.

For 20 years as a Congregation, we've grown in appreciation of the common mission of the Salesian Family. Today is the time for us. Pope Francis invites us to be a Church whose members journey with Christ and with one another, whose members journey with people who might have lost hope. In the Church, all members have a role to contribute. Let us learn from **Pope Francis' reflections on Jesus' appearance to the disciples on the Road to Emmaus** and how we can walk together with Jesus and with one another to be missionaries. Everything fits together—from Jesus's approach, to Don Bosco's mission, to us as the Salesian Family, and to Pope Francis' mission for us today.

The final paragraphs showcase advice that Fr. Dominic would convey to



*Fr. Dominic speaks to a group of young people during a Salesian retreat
Photo by Ms. Victoria Weekley*

young people discerning any vocation, especially to the Salesian Family.

God has a plan for each person. This is not to be seen as something God imposes on us; it's a gift of love. Discernment starts and ends with our relationship with God through prayer life. Through prayer, we come to know God, and the plan and gift that God has for us become clearer.

Prayer is developing our spiritual life. So, first, each of us must ask the question, "Who am I?" The answer to that question is "I am a gift of God's love. I am God's gift to me and to others." But it must not remain a theory, or some words that some people come up with. Spending time in prayer helps us to embrace that identity, this is who I am in relationship with God.

Then, we have to ask God to help us recognize and develop the gifts that God has given to each one of us. Developing those gifts and using them to serve God and God's people is the response to God's love for us. That is the path to holiness, which also is a call to love.

For a young person, next you should ask God, "God, with these gifts and with the desire to holiness that you have given to me, what is your plan of love for me to love and to

serve?" As you discern your vocation, you can see what gifts, talents, opportunities, etc. you have. Can you see yourself contributing these gifts to the mission of the Salesian Family, whether as a brother, a priest, a sister, a layperson living in the single or married life, etc.? God will help you to know where God calls you to serve in the Church.

And for all of us, we should often review how we are responding to God's love for us in living our unique vocations, which we believe as God's gifts of love to us.

Discernment is an act of love responding to God's love. It's seeing the love with which God has created us, the love in Jesus' living among us and redeeming us, the love that is the Holy Spirit living in us. Living God's unique vocation is the best way for each of us to love God and to love others. In living our vocations, we embrace God's gift of love for each one of us.

Explore the invitation for Fr. Dominic's installment in August!



Salesian Pioneers of North America Fr. Francis Binelli, SDB

BY FR. MIKE MENDEL, SDB

Don Bosco predicted that Fr. Francis Binelli would be a master of novices. He filled that role for 42 years in 6 countries, including the United States for the last 10 years of his life.

As a young "cleric," Br. Francis asked Don Bosco to be sent to the missions. As if joking, Don Bosco replied that his mission would be to form Salesians. In fact, Fr. Binelli absorbed Don Bosco's character and skillfully transplanted it into Salesian disciples. He conveyed the charism simply, joyfully, and calmly.

According to Fr. Richard Pittini, provincial when Fr. Binelli died and author of his obituary letter, Fr. Binelli's spiritual, paternal character was such that whenever he appeared at a Salesian house, lines of penitents would form at his



*In 1947, some of Fr. Binelli's 1922 novices met for a 25th-anniversary reunion at the provincial house, the scene of their novitiate:
1st row: Frs. Felix Penna, Ignatius Kozik, and Dominic Battistello
2nd row: Frs. Eugene De Martini, Celestine Moskal, and Aloysius Trifari
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives*

confessional, eager to see "the holy priest with white hair." He radiated purity of soul and with that every other virtue.

Francis Binelli was born at Caresana in the Italian province of Vercelli on Feb. 26, 1863. At age 13 he entered the Salesian school at Borgo San Martino, where he met Don Bosco. While he was a novice at San Benigno Canavese in 1880-1881 (under the guidance of Fr. Barberis), he heard the saint narrate the dream of the future of the Salesian Society (BM XV, 147-152). At the end of that year, he made perpetual profession on Oct. 5, 1881.

At some point, Don Bosco told him that he would have to provide himself "with a few dictionaries, as I would need them. He added that I would someday cross the ocean. . . . Don Bosco proved right about the dictionaries; I had to master four languages. He was right, too, about my crossing the ocean."

Br. Binelli went to France for 20 years, including the years of theological studies and ordination (on June 29, 1886). He was recalled to Piedmont in 1903 for a period of 10 years, then posted to the Austrian Province in 1913. In 1921 he was dispatched to New Rochelle.

Fr. Peter Rinaldi, one of his novices in 1926-1927, then

assistant to the novices in Newton in Fr. Binelli's final ten months as master, states that he became master of novices in 1887. Father's personal record in our archives gives 1890 for his first appointment, prior to which he was the novices' assistant for three years. He was master, and sometimes also director, in four houses in France and Italy until 1912. After a year's respite as confessor at St. John the Evangelist in Turin, he was appointed master again in Austria, then in Hungary, back to Austria, next in Bavaria, between 1913 and 1921.

When Fr. Binelli arrived in the U.S., Fr. Rinaldi remarks, "ours was a struggling province, still mainly dependent on Europe for its personnel." He fully trusted that the Salesian charism would take root: "Give it the fertile soil of piety, the sunshine of family spirit, the rain of temperance; above all, give it a lot of enthusiastic work, and watch it grow."

According to Fr. Rinaldi, "None of his novices will ever forget his famous plan of sanctification," his constant stress on obedience and meditation, his favorite expressions, such as: *Always a novice in fervor and docility; Never make peace with your faults; 'But' is a word not found in the Salesian dictionary; Learn to have a wax-like will and a child-like heart; The surest way to Jesus is true devotion to Mary.*

Fr. Rinaldi noted the "saintly man's" foibles, like a love for chess.

"Mischievously we knew that we could get our Master to assent to anything if we approached him while he was engrossed in his favorite pastime." He was also notoriously distracted. But he



Fr. Binelli with novices at the provincial house, 1925, of whom we can identify about half:
Seated: Fr. Binelli, Fr. Emmanuel Manassero, Bro. Louis Rinaldi
1st row: Joseph Caselli, ?, Paul Sappino, Anthony Rzeszutek, ?, Joseph Sokol
2nd row: Joseph Romani (far left), Paul Czík (2nd from right), Augustine Sklenar (far right) | 3rd row: Patrick Corcoran (far left)
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives

was simple and good-natured with an unaffected piety: sacramental, practical, and realistic. Those qualities led to simple spiritual direction based on "sound practical sense and all-pervading kindness."

The U.S. province's new novitiate—its first since the one year at Cold Spring, NY (1918-1919)—was canonically erected on Aug. 13, 1920, but there was neither a master nor novices. They and the new master came the next year—Fr. Binelli on Sept. 2, and 16 novices at the beginning of October. They began their novitiate on Oct. 7; all of them professed on Oct. 8, 1922. Most of them persevered as Salesians through the years: Bro. Xavier Asta, Fr. Dominic Battistello, Bro. John Chiabai, Fr. Eugene De Martini, Fr. Ignatius Kozik, Fr. John Kugler, Fr. Celestine Moskal, Fr. Louis Moskal, Fr. Francis Parolin, Fr. Felix Penna, and Fr. Aloysius Trifari.

In 1927, Fr. Binelli and the novices moved to Goshen, NY; and in 1928 to Newton, NJ, the province's new house of formation.

The roster of novices formed by Fr. Binelli between 1921 and 1931 is too long to record here; it reads like a Who's Who of U.S. Salesian history. They included future provincials Fr. Penna and Fr. Ernest Giovannini (1923-1924, also a general councilor, 1958-1971); numerous future distinguished directors, pastors, and provincial councilors for both U.S. provinces, a future master of novices, and several coadjutors revered for their holiness, such as Brs. Frank Gambaro and Vincent Nassetta. While some of his novices had come as "missionaries" from Europe, it was evident that the Salesian charism was indeed taking root in the U.S.

Early in July 1931, Fr. Binelli was feeling stomach pains, and he was told he'd need surgery. Before leaving Newton on July 12 for St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, he and the novices' assistant, Bro. Rinaldi, put his room and his papers into perfect order. He had surgery on July 16 but didn't recover; he died peacefully two days later, with Salesian priests and sisters around him in his hospital room.

In 1967, the province placed a memorial



Fr. Binelli at Newton
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives

plaque in Fr. Binelli's honor in the new novitiate building at Newton. It read: "Appointed master of novices by St. John Bosco, he trained generations of young Salesians in Europe and in the United States, himself a perfect model of the Salesian spirit to which he formed his charges with rare discernment, simplicity and kindness."



Plaque memorializing Fr. Binelli at Newton
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives



(from left to right) Amy Kawula and Barb Fraze, the winner of the 2023 St. Francis de Sales Award
Photo by Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB

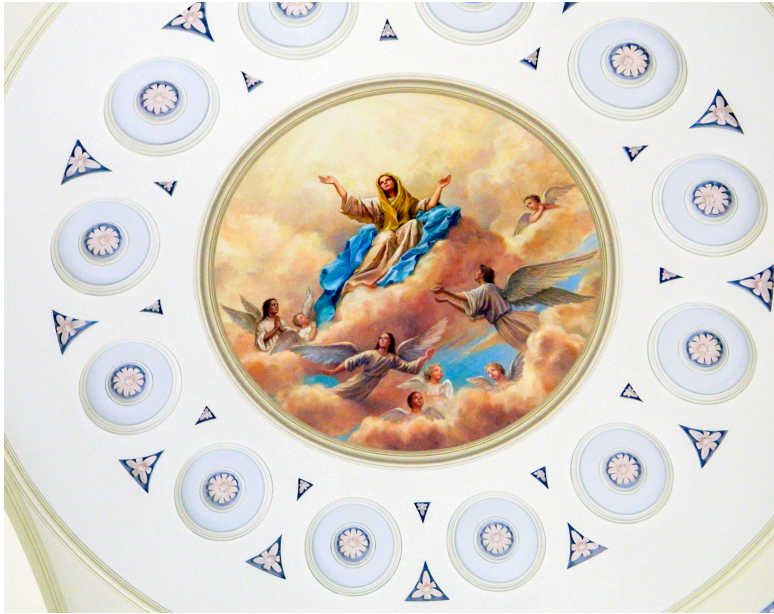
Celebrating Faith and Ministry Catholic Media Conference 2023

BY JULIA ST. CLAIR, SUE PROVINCE
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

This year's Catholic Media Conference took place from Tuesday, June 6, through Friday, June 9, in Baltimore, MD. It was held at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards.

Around 300 Catholic communicators, journalists, editors, writers, etc. joined to the conference, which was hosted by Archbishop William E. Lori, the Archbishop of Baltimore, and the archdiocesan magazine, *The Catholic Review*. Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB, and I attended on behalf of the SUE Province. It was a beautiful experience to network and unite with Catholic professionals from across the U.S. and celebrate our faith and ministry.

Next year's Catholic Media Conference will take place on June 18-21, 2024, in Atlanta, GA. Please pray for all Catholic communicators, journalists, editors, writers, and all who work in Catholic media. Remember, St. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of journalists, and St. John Bosco is the patron saint of editors and printers!



Ceiling in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first Roman Catholic cathedral built in the U.S.
Photo by Fr. Mike Mendl, SDB



Happy family with their Labrador retriever
Photo by evgenyatamanenko from Getty Images



Explore highlights from this year's Catholic Media Conference and view the program!



Parenting the "Don Bosco Way" Part III, Continued

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*. 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."

Religion

Life: Parents are to make efforts at being life-enhancing, never life-negating. Young people tend to live life as a feast. Music, theatre, dance, games, sport, art, and crafts—these are all ways of living life's celebration and they have an important place in a child's life. But, equally important are life-enriching attitudes such as gratitude, praise, joy, optimism, mutual encouragement, reverence for creation, interpersonal respect, and sensitivity to peace, tolerance, and justice. In the process of learning and growth, ideas, talents, and energies are all important. Nothing is wasted; no person is taken for granted. Each one respects the other and earns the respect of the other. Ways to overcome difficulties and challenges are sought through trust, participation, and forgiveness in a spirit of family togetherness.

Duty: There is more to life than fun and festivity. The bitter pill that children have to learn to swallow is dedication to duty. 'As you sow, so shall you reap.' Investment of time in study, in dedication to 'doing one's duty' and doing it well, are tasks to be accepted cheerfully as 'God's Holy Will.' It is a Will that matures as it disciplines, that redounds to one's own growth and improvement. Routine is an essential part of this discipline, just as hard work and perseverance are. Young people find these hard to accept as they are caught up in today's techno-media culture which thrives on sensationalism, which tantalizes and entices through ever newer gimmicks and marketing tricks. The call to duty, however, is irreplaceable and there is no shortcut to happiness. It is worth recalling Don Bosco's advice to the fervent Dominic Savio who wanted to 'achieve' holiness through a list of sacrifices and mortifications: "For us holiness simply means doing one's daily duty cheerfully." One has only to begin implementing this principle through the minute-by-minute sequences of each day to realize the challenge of its hidden austerity.

Service: Parents must be attentive to the dual nature of growth within their children. One is within, namely an inner journey to discovering God, relating to Him in prayer, and the daily struggle to be happy in the fulfillment of one's duty. The other, equally important, is the journey outward towards making the world around us a lot better than it is. Parents often tend to neglect the development of this second aspect of being religious. In so doing they raise self-contented children with a high degree of self-esteem and self-achievement, but with an equally large quotient of snobbery and greed.

Don Bosco was alert to the importance of opening children's minds and hearts to those less fortunate than themselves. At a time when people were fleeing areas affected by the cholera plague of 1844, he did the impossible. He sent his adolescent boys on a mission to assist the affected—with a scapular of Mary around the neck of each of his students (History has it that none caught the plague!).

A child so immersed in the unfolding of the double journey 'within' and 'without' gradually learns to form that delicate and precious inner core of his being—his conscience. Through this, he begins to understand his place in the universe and to



*Happy family watches the sunset
Photo by Choreograph by Getty Images*

discover what he is "called to be" to improve life beginning with the world around him.

Parents sooner or later realize that the exhaustion of their energies in the striving to advance family security cannot compensate for one basic truth: their children are not their property. God gives them the gift of children to be caretakers in partnership with His plans for each of them. Their best gifts to their sons and daughters are not huge bank balances or enough flats to provide for posterity, but instead, a profound and personal relationship with their Creator. Such a relationship is foundational. It is the fulcrum, focus, and finale of life's double journey. It is foundational because in a young person's moments of loneliness, doubt, and despair (when Mom and Dad are nowhere near or when yesterday's finances are now liquidated) only such a foundation has the guiding light of an answer.



Part IV – "Reason" – will appear in the August issue of Snippets



In the Salesian Family Know



(bottom two rows) Liliana, Alena, Rebecca, April, and Catey after having been commissioned during Mass on Saturday, June 17
Photo courtesy of Ms. Margarita Lacayo, EXA-FMA

Welcome, New VIDES Volunteers!

GATHERED BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA,
AND MISS JULIA ST. CLAIR,
SUE COMMUNICATORS DIRECTOR

During this past month, VIDES had a beautiful formation service camp with six new VIDES volunteers. From Monday, June 5, through Sunday, June 18, Liliana, Alena, Rebecca, April, and Catey gathered at the Provincial House in San Antonio, and Rafael zoomed in from Ireland. In addition to learning about the Salesian style of working with the young, they planned and animated a half-day oratory at St. John Bosco School, helped out in the kitchen, spent time with the Sisters, and played Spikeball.



Explore the latest news from VIDES through their [website](#)!

Be on the lookout for a full-length article on VIDES in the August issue of Salesian Family Snippets.



(from left to right) Bishop James Tamayo, DD, and Fr. Jerry Gutierrez
Photo courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

Salesian Family Gatherings SDB and FMA Past Pupil Ordained

BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA

On Saturday, June 24, Fr. Jerry Gutierrez, a past pupil of both the SDBs and the FMAs, was ordained in the Laredo Diocese in Texas. The Cathedral of San Agustin was packed with family, friends, Brothers, priests, and many parishioners whom he served during his years studying theology. Together, they witnessed the bestowal of Holy Orders on Fr. Jerry at the hands of Bishop James Tamayo, DD, the first bishop of Laredo. Fr. Jerry's first assignment as an ordained priest will be to serve as parochial vicar of the Church of Divine Mercy in Laredo.

Fr. Jerry is an alumnus of the last graduating class of Don Bosco Tech (DBT), Paterson, NJ, in 2002. He and his family were parishioners at St. Anthony's on Beech Street in Paterson, NJ. He attended the parish grammar school and graduated in 1998. His parents and brother Luis still reside in Paterson. Fr. Jerry will celebrate Holy Mass at St. Anthony's Church on Beech Street, Paterson, NJ, at 1:00 pm ET on Sunday, July 9. He and his family would love to see his DBT and St. Anthony's schoolmates and former Salesian teachers and parish priests at that Mass. He will also celebrate the Mass on Monday, July 8, at St. Joseph's Chapel at MHCA in North Haledon for his Salesian Sisters as their Jubilee Celebration falls on Sunday, July 9, also and impedes their presence at the Beech Street Mass.



Newly promised two new Salesian Cooperators Antonietta Galardo-Stante and Manuel Arbizu.
Photo by Carolina Lagana, Salesian Cooperator

Two Salesian Cooperators Make Their Promise in Montréal

BY MRS. CAROLINA LAGANA, SALESIAN COOPERATOR

On Friday, June 16, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Maria Ausiliatrice Centre in Montréal, Quebec celebrated the induction of two new Salesian Cooperators, Ms. Antonietta Galardo-Stante and Mr. Manuel Arbizu.

Antonietta raised her family in a Salesian community in Montréal and is a very active member of her parish. Raised in El Salvador, Manuel discovered his Salesian roots from his grandfather, who was a Salesian Cooperator.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Fr. Richard Authier, SDB, and Fr. Luc Lantagne, SDB. A fraternal moment was shared as everyone celebrated such a blessed moment.

God bless you, Antonietta and Manuel! Thank you both for your "yes!" to serving God and our Salesian Family!



Human & Spiritual Integration

and
Trauma-Informed Care in Ministry

Harvard Public Health Magazine (Fall 2021) referred to our times as "The Age of Trauma." This **certification workshop** is for all staff and ministry leaders - helping you to understand trauma and how people heal from these wounds so that our parishes, schools, and institutions can be places of encounter with the healing love of Jesus Christ.

September 23, 2023
8:00am - 6:30pm

ST. ANN CHURCH
781 Smith Rd
Parsippany-Troy Hills, NJ 07054

Workshop Topics

- Connection, Integration, Compassion
- Avoiding Unhealthy Dynamics
- Woundedness, Brokenness, & Trauma
- Understanding Trauma & Its Effects
- Mitigating the Effects of Trauma
- Fostering Affective Maturity
- The Eucharist as Source & Model of Ministry
- Specific, Practical Applications
- Signs of the Need to Refer

Schedule

7:30am Arrival & Check-in
8:00 Mass with Bishop Kevin Sweeney
8:45 Continental Breakfast
9:00 Session 1
12:30pm Lunch (box available for purchase)
1:30 Session 2
6:30 End



Presenter
Margaret Vasquez, LPCC-S
Certified Trauma Therapist
and Founder of
Sacred Heart Ministries



REGISTER TODAY \$35pp
<https://rcdop.org/healing-ministries-workshop>
Questions? Sr. Theresa Lee, FMA
tlee@patersondiocese.org

Advertisement for the Trauma-Informed Care in Ministry Workshop
Courtesy of the Diocese of Paterson

Salesian Family Opportunities Get Certified in Trauma-Informed Care in Ministry

Nearly two years ago, *Harvard Public Health Magazine* referred to our times as "The Age of Trauma." Many young people and young adults have been and continue to be directly affected by trauma. Long-term effects can often result in struggles with anxiety, depression, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). Furthermore, long undiagnosed and untreated PTSD can transform into CPTSD, complex post-traumatic stress disorder. With this in mind, our young people and young adults need our compassion, empathy, and understanding more than ever.

Register today for this certification workshop. Together, we can understand trauma and help people heal from their wounds so that our parishes, schools, and institutions can be places of encounter with the healing love of Jesus Christ.



Our Family Album

Requiescant in Pace



Isabel Artime Garcia
Photo courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

Isabel Artime Garcia, mother of the Rector Major



Silverio "Ver" Pigarowa
Photo by Mrs. Ann Harding, Local Coordinator of the SSCC, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Silverio "Ver" Pigarowa, Salesian Cooperator



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



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



**"Patience smooths away
lots of difficulties."**

- St. John Bosco



Our email address is:

contact@donboscosalesianportal.org



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