

Canada and Eastern USA



Salesian Family Snippets



News of the Salesian Family Near and Far

EDUCATION'S HEART OF GOLD

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
is in our Congregation's DNA.

COOPERATORS MAKE THEIR PROMISES ON PENTECOST

Celebrating the dynamic presence
of the Northern New Jersey Salesian Family.



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Visit

<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/sf-snippets-archives/>
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Cover photo by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA | Photo featured on the "In This Issue" page and back cover courtesy of Canva Pro



*Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB (second from left) presides at Holy Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome during last year's Salesian Family Pilgrimage
Photo by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA*

Education's Heart of Gold

Why devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is in the DNA of the Salesian Congregation

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

This June, I wish to present to you the reality of the meaning of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome (*Sacro Cuore*). It is a church with a very great history—one that has its roots in Don Bosco himself—for at the Pope's request he spent the last years of his life, as well as his last energies and strength, on the construction of this beloved church.

The Sacred Heart, and every church and devotion in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, speaks of the Love of that Divine Heart, the Heart of the Son of God, for each one of His sons and daughters in the entire human race. It also speaks of suffering and of the Love we receive from God, which is not always reciprocated.

Today I wish to add one more aspect: I think it also speaks of the pain that Jesus our Lord feels in the face of the suffering of many people: rejection, immigration without a place to go, loneliness, and the violence done to many. I think it can be said that He speaks of all this, too, and without a doubt at the same time blesses everything that is done on behalf of those less fortunate, just as Jesus Himself did when traveling the roads of

Judea and Galilee.

Very many silver hearts

One joyful reality that undoubtedly makes the very Heart of God rejoice is what I myself saw being carried out in the Don Bosco Salesian Foundation on the islands of Tenerife and Grand Canary. I was there in these past weeks. Among the many things experienced, I was able to witness the work of 140 educators who carry forward the various projects of the Foundation, including the reception of those in need and their housing, work training, and subsequent placement in the working world.

I also had an encounter with another group of a hundred adolescents and young adults who have been blessed to have received this service that Don Bosco gives to the least. At the end of our precious meeting, they gave me a gift. In a small, heart-shaped cardboard box, they had placed more than a hundred hearts, bearing the names of Nain, Rocío, Armiche, Mustapha, Xousef, Ainoha, Desirée, Abdjalil, Beatriz and Ibrahim, Yone, and Mohamed, and a hundred

others, each with a message written on it. These messages expressed something simple, and in a simple way, but still, something which sprang from the heart. These are some examples of precious statements:

- Thank you for making all this possible;
- Thank you for the second chance you have given me in my life;
- I'm still fighting. It's easier to do so with your help;
- Thank you because you have restored my joy;
- Thank you for helping me believe that I can do everything I set out to do;
- Thank you for the food and a home;
- Thank you from the bottom of my heart;
- Thank you for having helped me;
- Thank you for this opportunity to grow; and
- Thank you for believing in us young people despite the situation in which we live.

There were a hundred others, just like these, addressed to Don Bosco and to the educators who are at their side every day in Don Bosco's name.

I listened to all they shared with me. I heard some of their stories—many of them filled with pain. I saw the look in their eyes and their smiles. I was very proud to be a Salesian and to belong to a family of such splendid brothers, educators, and young people.

I thought, yet again, that Don Bosco is as timely as ever—and more necessary than ever. I also thought how great is the educational delicacy with which we accompany these young people along their path, taking each one where he or she is and not where we would like them to be.

Together we said a prayer addressed to the God who loves us all, to the God who blesses His sons and daughters, using words that made Christians, Muslims, and Hindus feel comfortable. No doubt, the Spirit of God assisted us all.

I was happy because just as Don Bosco himself welcomed his first boys to Valdocco, the same thing is experienced today in so many "Valdoccos" around the world.

I have no doubt that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is full of the Love that manifests itself in the many wounds healed in each one of these boys and girls because, we well know, Love heals and cures.

Blessed Solemnity of the Sacred Heart,
Don Ángel



In, With, and For the Church



General Councillor for Social Communications Fr. Gildásio dos Santo Mendes, SDB, (center)
with a few of the conference attendees at Colle Don Bosco
Photo by Mrs. Rosina Di Felice, Salesian Cooperator

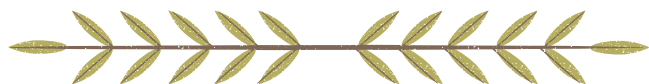
International Salesian Bulletin Meeting At the Beginning

BY MISS JULIA ST. CLAIR,
SUE PROVINCE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

This year's International *Salesian Bulletin* Meeting took place from Friday, April 21, through Wednesday, April 26, at Valdocco, Turin. Salesian Family members, including SDBs and lay people, from almost 50 countries journeyed to attend the conference. The formal sessions began on Saturday, April 22, and were conducted in Italian. Translations were provided in English and Spanish. Attendees were also treated to tours of Turin, the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Museo Casa Don Bosco, Chieri, and Becchi.

It was incredible to unite with Salesian Family members dedicated to spreading Don Bosco's charism through communications. Everyone had been incredibly moved to "walk in Don Bosco's shoes" and to be physically present in those special places where our founder began his work.

Please pray for all Salesians, both religious and lay, who work in communications and for the success of the *Salesian Bulletin* and all our Salesian publications.



Salesian Pioneers of North America **Fr. Emmanuel Manassero, SDB**

BY FR. MIKE MENDEL, SDB

Fr. Emmanuel Manassero played important parts in the history of the Salesian Society on three continents.

Emmanuel was born on September 5, 1873, at Bene Vagienna in the province of Cuneo, Italy. He went to the Oratory in Turin as a student in 1885 and had the joy of going to confession to Don Bosco. He became a novice in 1888 and professed at Turin on October 11, 1889. At the motherhouse, he received a solid Salesian formation.

At the Gregorian in Rome, he earned degrees in philosophy, canon law, and theology between 1892 and 1896. One year after his ordination in the Lateran basilica at Rome on April 4, 1896, he was appointed director and master of novices at the formation house at Foglizzo (1897-1899). Then he was sent to Oswiecim, the foundational Salesian work in Poland (1898), for six years as director. His success was such that when the Austrian Province was created, encompassing Austria, Poland, and Slovenia (all parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire), he was nominated provincial. He filled that office from 1905 to 1911.

A term as provincial in Piedmont followed (1911-1917). The scarcity of personnel for the Italian houses during World War I (see Fr. Giraud's biography of Fr. Albera, ch. 8) necessitated his also serving as director and pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Turin; the work also included a school and oratory (one that Don Bosco had founded).



Fr. Emmanuel Manassero, SDB
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives

In August 1919, he was appointed the fourth provincial of the United States, where the province of St. Philip covered the whole country. He arrived in New York on October 9. During his eight years as provincial, Salesian High School was opened (1920) on the property recently purchased in New Rochelle and the new Sts. Peter and Paul Church was built in San Francisco from 1922 to 1924. The work in Philadelphia was closed, but another was opened at Watsonville. Parishes were accepted in Elizabeth, NJ (St. Anthony), Los Angeles (Mary Help of Christians), Albany (St. John), Toronto (St. Agnes), and Tampa (St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mercy). In Goshen, St. Michael's School was opened, and in Tampa, Mary Help of Christians Orphanage. Finally, the San Francisco Province of St. Andrew was created on May 28, 1926.

Our archives have 10 letters from Fr. Manassero to Fr. Paul Albera from his arrival in the U.S. in 1919 until Fr. Albera's death in 1921; there are only 2 letters from Albera to him. Most of these have yet to be translated from Italian. But they show Fr. Manassero's solicitude for the confreres and the works. There are dozens more letters between him and major superiors like Frs. Rinaldi and Ricaldone, and to or from U.S. confreres, almost all in Italian. They would, of course, provide deep insight into his labors in the U.S.

At the end of his service in the U.S., Fr. Manassero was sent



Fr. Manassero (second from right) with Bp. Louis Versiglia (center) and three unidentified Salesians at New Rochelle, ca. 1927.
Photo courtesy of SUE Provincial Archives

to Australia as "visitor," to assess the Salesian work there, which Bishop Coppo had begun in 1922 in the mission territory of Kimberly. Although a fragmentary outpost was added near Melbourne, the work in both places had stagnated. Fr. Manassero took hold of the situation, withdrawing men from Kimberly and the outpost and purchasing an estate called Rupertswood at Sunbury that could be developed into a school. Bishop Coppo returned to Italy. Fr. Manassero arranged for English-speaking personnel, stabilized finances, and laid a sound foundation for the future Australian Province. He served as director at Sunbury for two years (1927-1929).



Fr. Manassero returned to Italy in 1929. From his residence at Sacred Heart, he dedicated himself to the formation of Salesian clerical students at Rome, offering them his wealth of knowledge, experience, and Salesian virtue. He also carried out an extraordinary visitation in Sicily. He died in Rome on May 29, 1946.



Back view of a family embracing and praying together
Photo courtesy of aldomurillo from Getty Images Signature

Parenting the "Don Bosco Way" Part III

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

Today it is so easy to be swayed by mass media presentations of happiness. Wealth, influence, fame, and

appearances—these are popular criteria for success. Parents are influenced by these superficial interpretations of life and they often induce their children to join the frantic chase for the pot of gold and glamour.

Don Bosco, instead, points to the root cause of genuine happiness: an ardent following of the will of God as we daily live our lives in faith and according to a moral plan. Love of God and love of neighbor begin in the home at family prayer. One of the peak moments of family togetherness is the time each family sets aside to worship, praise, thank, and petition God. Only in this manner will parents be able to foster in their children a relationship that goes beyond "feeling good" in each other's company to "being-fully-in-communion" with each other and the surrounding world. Indeed, Don Bosco's is an educative system that is deeply centered around family togetherness—one that is tested on its knees. But one may object. Isn't human rapport sufficient? Why talk of religion with my children when today, more than ever before religion is being seen as a means to divide humanity? Is not an education to a deep love for humanity enough?

The objection is valid, considering the way all religions have had their share of fanatics and fundamentalists who are ready to kill in God's name. The fear of religion turning into an instrument of hate is indeed a real possibility if it ignores reason—which is why Don Bosco gave equal importance to the use of "reason" alongside "religion," a point we will discuss in the fourth section of this article.

True religion, the type understood by Don Bosco, is one that brings out the best in our human nature in order to direct it to a more perfect loving, and a more generous way of living. Applying this principle to family life, parents would have to confront some fundamental questions: What is the guarantee that the love parents have for their children is not actually a camouflage for some pet affection that is profoundly tainted by their self-interest? Many parents think they want the best for their children but end up forcing them to be dream copies of some unfulfilled personal fancy. Or, how sure can parents be that their child—the joy of their conjugal bliss and fruit of years of sacrifice—will not someday, by some terrible turn of events, become for them 'the curse of their aged lives?' God

alone knows! And, yes, God does know. That is why for Don Bosco, education cannot be reduced to a purely secular humanitarian pedagogy. It has to go much deeper. For him, true education is a spirituality that seeks to inculcate in the heart and the mind of the child a profound sense of *confidence in God's unconditional love for humanity*. True education opens children to an appreciation for life, to a sense of duty, and to the challenge of generous service.

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.

The second half of Part III—"Religion"—will appear in the July issue of Snippets

Registration for the Festival is open through September 5. Spaces are limited, so please register early.

*Use the code **EARLY BIRD** for a 15% discount on the Festival tickets now through June 16, 2023, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.*

*Enter the code when you register in **English** or **Spanish**!*

For those registering groups of young people (under 18 years of age), adult chaperones must be provided.

Please call or write to Sr. Denise for details.

Register your group today!

Are you a Salesian Family Member parent/married couple? If yes, we invite you to take this survey about marriage, our young people, and society.

Take the survey today!



In the Salesian Family Know



*Ms. Margarita Lacayo, EXA-FMA, wears her honor society regalia in front of a poster of Mary Help of Christians
Photo courtesy of Ms. Margarita Lacayo, EXA-FMA*

Margarita Lacayo Receives Prestigious Honor

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

Ms. Margarita Lacayo, EXA-FMA, from Miami, has been selected for membership in the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS). Nominations are awarded to only a small percentage of Miami Dade College students, so congratulations to Ms. Lacayo on earning her invitation to become a member!



Ms. Lacayo is incredibly grateful to be a member of the NSLS. " [The U.S.] is great and gives us good opportunities, you just have to know how to take advantage of them," she advised. She also recalled the words of her sixth grade teacher, Sr. Clemenica Cifuentes: "Life requires many sacrifices." Ms. Lacayo shared that she remembers these words of wisdom when she needs encouragement.



*(from left to right) Newly promised Cooperators Geri Battaglia, Vito Delzotto, and Marie Carmel Garçon
Photo by Mrs. Melissa Frank, SC*

Salesian Family Gatherings Cooperators Make Their Promises on Pentecost

BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

On Sunday, May 28, the Solemnity of Pentecost, the Salesian Family in Northern New Jersey gathered at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, NJ, to celebrate a number of important events in the life of the Church, Nation, and its own Salesian Family. On a day dominated by the feast of the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles, Disciples, and Mary, the Salesian Family celebrated its dynamic presence based in the Ramsey and North Malden areas. Forty-five Salesian Family members and friends of Don Bosco gathered in the Mary Help of Christians Chapel to celebrate the Liturgy of Pentecost. After the homily, our three aspirants of the St. Dominic Savio Center of Salesian Cooperators made their Promise surrounded by their fellow Salesian Cooperators, family members, FMAs, and SDBs. The three newly promised Salesian Cooperators are Geri Battaglia, Vito Delzotto, and Marie Carmel Garçon. A number of the family members were graduates of Don Bosco Prep. The day continued with a festive gathering of Salesian Family members to celebrate the newly promised Salesian Cooperators with their families.



Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, SDB (center) with newly ordained Fr. Branden Gordon, SDB, (left), and Fr. Joshua Sciuillo, SDB (right)
Photo courtesy of SUE Fr. Provincial Tim Zak, SDB

Frs. Gordon and Sciuillo Ordained by Cardinal Rodriguez

BY FR. MIKE MENDL, SDB

(New Rochelle, NY – May 31) – Fathers Branden Gordon and Joshua Sciuillo were ordained priests on May 27 by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, SDB, archbishop emeritus of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The rite of ordination was celebrated at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Orange, NJ. The cardinal's joy in being among his Salesian Family was evident throughout the day.

More than 60 Salesians took part in the liturgy, besides numerous Salesian Sisters and other members of the Salesian Family, members of the new priests' families, and students from several Salesian schools—from as far away as Sherbrooke and Tampa. The cardinal's homily stressed that the newly ordained should become identified with Christ, to whom they belong entirely and who sends them to be influencers among the young.



*Continue reading on www.salesians.org,
and explore photos on Shutterfly!*



The Fonseca family from St. Anthony Hawthorne works on a puzzle
Photo by Br. Mihn Tu, SDB

Mary Help of Christians Day

BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

On Saturday, May 20, the Salesian Family in the Northeast area of the province gathered on a rainy day to give honor to Don Bosco's Madonna, Mary Immaculate, the Help of Christians. Approximately 250 Salesian Family and friends came together for an Oratory Day of shared friendship, prayer, formation, evangelization, and fun. The spirit of our celebrants was not deterred by the wet weather that confined them to inside activities in the youth center buildings.

This Mary Help of Christians Day was very different from most previous gatherings. We held the entire day in the gym building except for lunch in the cafeteria. The participants were a bit slow to arrive but were enlivened by a busload of families from St. John Bosco Parish in Port Chester. In truth, they were the heart of the celebration—from baby carriage folks to those on walkers. It was a good mix of Salesian Family groups and friends of Don Bosco.

The surprise arrival of five young adults from the Toronto area was most welcome. It was a joyful moment to see them

mix in so quickly with a similar number of young adults from our Salesian Youth Movement in the NY/NJ area. They were like old friends that had not yet met!

The Cooperators and young professed in Orange did the preparation and set up work. Michaela Rizzuto worked with some Salesian Cooperators and ADMA members to lead the scriptural Rosary. There were some special offerings: the memorial video of departed Salesian Family members, a relics display, and a tour of the Becchi house. We had a beautiful Rosary in the gym and a crowning of a statue of Mary Help of Christians.

Fr. Manny Gallo offered an inspiring bilingual opening talk on the Rector Major's Strenna and Mary. After some music by the Brothers from Orange, Salesian Cooperator Joanne Fusaro led a process in which the participants wrote down the qualities of a good family. We then discussed the way these qualities relate to Don Bosco's preventive system. Together, these qualities and environment help the family grow in holiness as a domestic Church.

There were games for the kids in a part of the gym. It was good to see so many adult Salesian Family members (FMAs, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, and SDBs) accompanying the young families in their fun!

Many pilgrims spent time in the chapel for nearly three hours of adoration. Six priests heard confessions for at least two hours. SUE Vice-Provincial Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB, brought the whole day together as the celebrant for the closing Mass. A Salesian High School alumnus named Chris was much appreciated for leading us in liturgical music for the Mass. SEC Provincial-elect Sr. Colleen Clair, FMA, offered the good night talk before the day ended with the Blessing of Mary Help of Christians.

The attendance and spirit of the participants were far beyond the expectations of many. It also demonstrated that we are building up a devoted number of Salesian Family members—SDBs, FMAs, Cooperators, and ADMA and local people—who look forward to this celebration and come to take part even when it is pouring rain most of the day. We praise God and His



Blessed Mother, Mary, for our energetic preparation team who look forward to putting this day together each year.



*Don Bosco Prep students during their visit to Don Bosco Children's Home in Hernando, FL
Photo courtesy of Ms. Melody Candiloro*

Don Bosco Prep Boys Journey to Hernando, FL

BY MS. MELODY CANDILORO, SALESIAN
COOPERATOR ASPIRANT, ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
CENTER, HERNANDO, FL

On Easter Monday, April 10, students from Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey NJ, escorted by Br. Travis Gunther, SDB, and Salesian Cooperator Mrs. Melissa Frank traveled to Mary Help of Christians in Tampa, FL, to perform service and charity work. From there, they visited the Don Bosco Children's Home in Hernando, FL, where they raked leaves and planted seeds in their garden. What a beautiful green garden we now have, thanks to the boys!



Mary Help of Christians celebration in Surrey with new ADMA members
Photo by SUE Fr. Provincial Tim Zak, SDB

Surrey Salesian Family Members Welcome New ADMA Members

Congratulations and welcome to the 11 new members of ADMA in Surrey, BC, who made their commitment on the feast of Mary Help of Christians!



Our Family Album



Requiescat in Pace



Sr. Elba Lidia Montaldi, FMA
Courtesy of Sr. Elba Lidia Montaldi, FMA's Facebook

Sr. Elba Lidia Montaldi, FMA



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



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



**"Walk with your feet on earth,
but let your heart be in heaven."**

- St. John Bosco



Our email address is:

contact@donboscosalesianportal.org



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**...I INVITE YOU TO DISCOVER THE
RICHES THAT ARE HIDDEN IN THE
HEART OF JESUS.**

Pope Francis