



Salesian Family Snippets



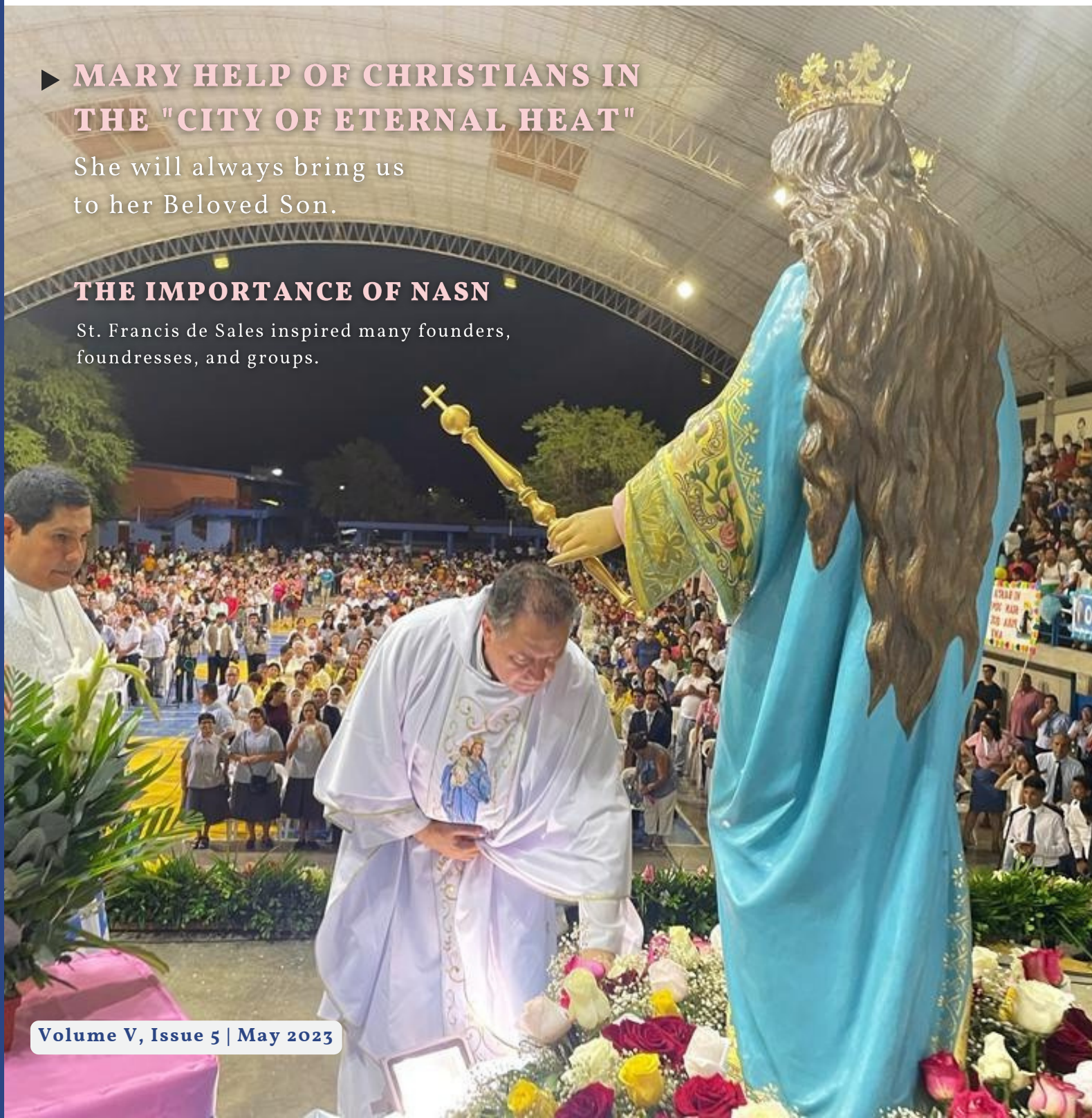
News of the Salesian Family Near and Far

► MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS IN THE "CITY OF ETERNAL HEAT"

She will always bring us to her Beloved Son.

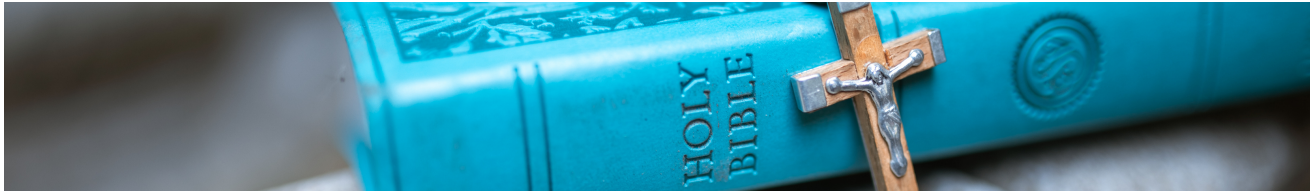
THE IMPORTANCE OF NASN

St. Francis de Sales inspired many founders, foundresses, and groups.





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IMPORTANT DATES



May 6: St. Dominic Savio, Youth

May 13: St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello, Virgin, co-foundress of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

May 14: Commemoration of the Deceased Parents & Relatives of the FMAs

May 15: Our Lady of Fatima (in the Salesian World)

May 16: St. Louis Orione, Priest, founder of the Sons of Divine Providence

May 18: St. Leonard Murialdo, Priest, collaborator with Don Bosco in the work of the oratories, founder of the Josephites

May 20: Mary Help of Christians Family Festival, Marian Shrine, Stony Point, NY

May 24: Mary Help of Christians, principal patroness of the Salesian Society and of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

May 25: Commemoration of all Deceased Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMAs)

May 29: Bl. Joseph Kowalski, Priest and Martyr

May 29: Mary, Mother of God

May 29: Pope St. Paul VI

Visit

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

Cover photo by Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS) | Photo featured on the "In This Issue" page courtesy of Canva Pro



The Rector Major after he crowned the image of Mary Help of Christians following Mass earlier this year in Peru
Photo by Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

Mary Help of Christians in the "City of Eternal Heat"

"Once again in my travels around the Salesian world I was able to see for myself that Mary Help of Christians—as Don Bosco promised—is a beacon that illuminates, a safe harbor, and maternal love for her Son and for all of us, her sons and daughters."

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

My dear friends, faithful readers of the *Salesian Bulletin*, and all friends of Don Bosco and his precious charism—

I come to you today, in this month of May, to tell you, as is my custom, something that I experienced recently and that has touched my heart. At the same time, it has made me reflect on a certain responsibility we have regarding our devotion to Mary Help of Christians. Then I will tell you why.

A Salesian City

It took place at the end of March when I was visiting Peru again. I wanted to draw near to the most northeastern part of the country to be present to a city and a Salesian presence that is very significant, for several reasons:

- Because it is called by its own inhabitants "the city of eternal heat." Indeed, it is very hot, and the humidity makes it feel even more so.
- At the same time, it is a very Salesian city. The Salesians have been present there for more than a century. Thus, a

whole style of relationships and educational ties that are very familiar, very simple—in short, very Salesian—have permeated the spirit of that town.

- Above all, *it is a very Marian city*, one very devoted to Mary Help of Christians since it lies in the orbit of two Salesian presences.
- Last, I would like to highlight the magnificent educational service given at Don Bosco School since the arrival of the Salesians and, especially in recent decades, with the Salesian presence called "Bosconia." This is a humble, beautiful work in one of the poorer neighborhoods plagued by conflict, on the outskirts of town. Thanks to the joint effort of many people (both in civil society and in the Church), and especially thanks to the charism of Don Bosco, that part of the city continues to be transformed, providing the opportunity for hundreds of boys and girls to receive technical training. Without this school, they would not have any chance for a profession. Here they learn and exercise a

skill and train for the world of work. There is even a magnificent Salesian medical center in Bosconia that is run by one of the official groups of our Family, the *Damas Salesianas* (Salesian Dames).

I believe I have quickly described what I encountered in the "city of eternal heat." This was all worth mentioning, but it is not all. Here an *especially deep devotion to Mary Help of Christians* touched my heart. In an almost impromptu gathering—because only a couple of weeks earlier had I announced that I would like to meet them—I met a crowd of more than three thousand people who gather at 6:00 p.m. on any given weekday to celebrate Holy Mass in honor of our Mother, the Help of Christians. I saw hundreds of children and young people with their fathers and mothers, and dozens and dozens of boys, girls, and teenagers from the various Salesian oratories in the area, along with their teachers, and others. The "eternal heat of the city" seemed little to me compared to the faith, devotion, interiority and prayer, the singing, and all that I imagined was filling the hearts of those people, just as it filled mine.

Once again in my travels around the Salesian world, I was able to see for myself that Mary Help of Christians—as Don Bosco promised—is a beacon that illuminates, a safe harbor, and maternal love for her Son and for all of us, her sons and daughters. She is certainly the MOTHER to whom we ought to abandon ourselves, for she will always bring us to her Beloved Son. I saw this also in Piura.

It is a sine qua non

At the same time, I would like to add another small comment, a necessary self-criticism of all of us who are sons and daughters of Don Bosco. It is this: *the Spirit of God reaches where He wants and touches, as only He knows, the hearts of His faithful*. This is also the case with devotion to the Mother of the Son of God, but she has always desired to count on us. The criticism I make is that this devotion to the Mother of Heaven, to our Mother the Help of Christians, has not been made known like this, with the same intensity and the same apostolic passion in all parts of the world or in all our presences. There are places where we have developed schools, have made progress, and have surely served the good of those people, but we have not known how to make our Mother known and loved. This would be incomprehensible

to Don Bosco. I will tell you that it is equally incomprehensible and unacceptable to me. If, in Don Bosco's Family, there are people who do not turn to or spread devotion to the Help of Christians, they may be devout but they will not be sons and daughters of Don Bosco. She is our Mother. Devotion to the Help of Christians as the Mother of the Lord and our Mother is not optional in the Salesian charism—as it was not optional for Don Bosco. It is a *sine qua non*.

I wish with all my heart that she, the Mother of the Beloved Son, she our Helper, continue to be as special to everyone in all parts of the world as she is in "the city of eternal heat" (Piura, Peru).

Happy feast of Mary Help of Christians to everyone around the world.



In, With, and For the Church



Salesian Family Festival 2023 At a Glance

CREATED AND GATHERED
BY SR. DENISE SICKINGER, FMA

We're excited to share the main event program for parents and adults for our bilingual Salesian *Family Festival* in October, available on the following pages in English (schedule) and Spanish (speakers). Watch for the ticket pages in *English* and *Spanish*, which will go live next Monday, May 15, on the Don Bosco Salesian Portal.

*All ads for the Salesian Family Festival 2023
have been designed by Sr. Christina Chong, FMA,
and Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA.*



Salesian FAMILY FESTIVAL 2023

AT A GLANCE

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



High School Oratory Day - Friday, October 6

It's All About Relationships

Confession available all day
Open to all 14-18-year-olds



FAITH * WITNESS TALKS * FRIENDS * SHARING * FOOD * FAMILY * FUN * GAMES * ICEBREAKERS

Family Festival Main Event - Friday, Oct. 6 - Sunday, Oct. 8

Living Don Bosco's Way in Our Families and in Our Daily Lives

Confession available all day & Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Open to all families & Everyone!

FRIDAY EVENING

- 4:30-6:45 Registration
- 6:00 Supper
- 7:00 Welcome & Introduction
- 7:30 Exposition & Adoration

SATURDAY AM

- 6:30-7:45 Registration
- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 Welcome & Introduction
- 8:15 Keynote "God's Infinite Mercy"
- 9:30 Talk "The Beauty of Marriage & Family Life"
Witness Talk: Regularizing Marriage
- 10:45 Panel: "Negative Realities That Hurt Families"
- 12:00 International Food Fest/Workshops

SATURDAY PM

- 1:45 Workshops: "Ministering to & Advocating for Families & Parental Rights"
- 3:00 Holy Mass Bishop Kevin Sweeney presiding
- 4:45 Keynote "The *Domus Ecclesiae*: The Family Gathered Around 3 Tables"
- 6:00 Family Oktoberfest
- 7:30 Holy Spouses Rosary
- 8:00 Special Evening Activities

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING BY AGE GROUP:

PRE-K TO GRADE 2; GRADES 3-5; JUNIOR HIGH; SENIOR HIGH; & YOUNG ADULTS
PETTING ZOO * LAUDATO SI! * ARTS & CRAFTS * THEOLOGY ON TAP (21+) * & LOTS MORE!

SEE OUR WEBSITE: SPEAKERS' BIOS & TALKS, VENDORS, FAMILY MINISTRY & ADVOCACY GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULES

SUNDAY

- 8:30 AM Holy Mass
- by rotation:
- 10:00 Family Brunch
- 11:00 Talk: "Becoming Eucharistic Disciples"
- Noon Workshops/Service
- 1:00 Family Hour of Fun
- 2:00 Keynote "Immaculée's Story of Faith, Hope, and Forgiveness"
- 3:00 Adoration & Benediction
- 4:00 Closing Ceremony/Commissioning

Salesian Family Convocation - Sunday Evening, Oct. 8 - Monday Noon, Oct. 9

Doing Mission as Family with families & the Young

For our Salesian Family & Collaborators

SALESIAN FAMILY LEADERS & GUEST SPEAKERS



M. C. CASTILLON
FMA Past Pupil
World Pres.



BR. DOMINIC N.
SDB World
SSCC Delegate



SR. LESLYE S.
FMA General
Councilor for the
Salesian Family



DON J. L. PLAYA
World
Delegate for the
Salesian
Family



SR. RUNITA B.
FMA General
Councilor for
Youth Ministry



JC MONTENEGRO
Exec. Director
Salesian Family
Youth Center



SR. M GREENAN
Author of "The
Salesian Matrix"



ENGLISH

Sponsored by the
Salesian Family
of St. John Bosco
of the USA

More INFORMATION REGISTER/DONATE

<https://DonBoscoSalesianPortal.org>
fmasfdelegate@gmail.com

www:
Don Bosco Preparatory
High School
Rancocas, NJ



ESPAÑOL



FESTIVAL DE LA FAMILIA

Salesiano

6-9 DE OCTUBRE, 2023

DON BOSCO PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL
492 NORTH FRANKLIN TURNPIKE
RAMSEY, NJ 07446

*“De la Oscuridad a su Maravillosa Luz:
La Alegría del Amor”* | PEDRO 2:9

VIVIR A LA MANERA DE DON BOSCO EN NUESTRAS FAMILIAS Y EN NUESTRA VIDA COTIDIANA



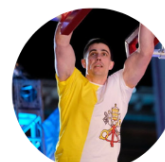
SHEVIN McCULLOUGH
*Studio 3:16 - Actor,
Compositor, Rapero*



JEFF JOAQUIN
Orador motivacional



JESSICA COX
Oradora motivacional



SEAN BRYAN
*Orador motivacional
"Papal Ninja"*

RENOMBRADOS

Presentadores



**BEN & JEANNIE
EWING**
Autora, Oradores



**DONNA-MARIE
COOPER O'BOYLE**
*Autor, Periodista,
Conferencista,
Anfitrión de EWTN*



IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA
*Autora, Oradora
motivacional*



**KATHLEEN & TROY
BILLINGS**
Autores, Oradores



**KELLY & RYAN
BREAUX**
Autores, Oradores



SHAWN HYLAND
*NJ Family Policy Center
Autor, Orador*



ALLAN WRIGHT
*NJ Family Policy Center
Autor, Orador*



GLENN T. STANTON
*Investigador Social,
Autor, y Director para
"Focus on the Family"*



STEPHEN BINZ
*Autor, Orador,
Erudito bíblico*



FR JERRY JECewiz
*alias "Prioste"
Mago*



ENGLISH

Más **INFORMACIÓN
REGISTRARSE/DONAR**
<https://DonBoscoSalesianPortal.org>
fmasfdelegate@gmail.com



ESPAÑOL



Promotional image for 150 Years of the Association of Salesian Cooperators
Designed by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

The Three-Year Preparation Program for the 150th Anniversary of the Salesian Cooperator Association

PREPARED AND GATHERED BY FR. TOM DUNNE, SDB

On May 9, 2026, the Salesian Family will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the approval of the Salesian Cooperator Association by Pope Pius IX in 1876!

What we are celebrating:

- **A Dream:** that of Don Bosco, who with effort and courage stood firm to God's inspiration to found an association that would accompany him "externally" in his mission with, for, and in the midst of young people.
- **A Promise:** Our promise to commit ourselves to living God's plan for us, as set out in the Project of Apostolic Life.
- **The Future:** The future of the Association, our own and that of our young people. The challenge to continue to dream, and to strive like Don Bosco to strive to respond to the challenges of tomorrow, to continue to build God's Project of salvation for young people through our lives.

The three year preparation plan as announced by Antonio Boccia and Martin Calderon follows up on the three basic categories of our celebration:

2023-2024: Remember: Everything that we have lived and that is significant, that allows us to be here today. Our origins, our

mission, our young people, our apostolates.

2024-2025: Renew: Our being, our commitment, our vocation, our mission, our structures, in the strength and love of God; renew ourselves to be significant, current in terms of today's challenges, and looking toward the near and distant tomorrow.

2025-2026: Relaunch: Strengthen our Association and commitment to new challenges at local, provincial, regional, and world levels.

The destination laid out for the Salesian Cooperators in their anniversary celebration is "our Provinces and centers will promote initiatives that allow us to strengthen ourselves and respond to God's call in our lives, and in this way, all together, three years from now, we will be celebrating with joy and commitment the continued consolidation of our Association."

"May our Mother Help of Christians continue to accompany us in this choice of life, and may we place our efforts and commitment in her hands. May she be our Teacher in these three years of preparation that we begin today." (Martin Calderon, May 9, 2023)



2023 NASN Annual Meeting participants visit Niagara Falls
Photo by Fr. John Puntino, SDB

The Importance of NASN And Why Don Bosco's Family Members Should Belong

BY FR. JOHN PUNTINO, SDB

A bit of history

In 2012, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. John Graden, head of DeSales Resources and Ministries, along with his assistant, Mrs. Joanne Kinney, invited provincial and province coordinators of institutes and associations with some connection with St. Francis de Sales to a meeting in order to explore ways of interacting with each other. Provincials, provincial delegates, and representatives from the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (OSFS), the First and Second Visitation Foundations, Salesians of Don Bosco, Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales, and many other groups came together to share information about their charism and apostolates and to discuss a mutual connection that could benefit everyone.

Discernment and discussions led to the formation of North American Salesian Network—NASN. Its mission statement, formulated in 2013 remains, remains as vibrant today as when NASN first introduced it.

We embrace a collaborative effort among our Salesian associations and institutes to empower us in refreshing our North American culture with

the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and our Founders. We facilitate the sharing of Salesian resources, educational services, technological expertise, vocational efforts, and other key ministries that enable us to touch hearts and "Live Jesus" across a wider expanse of people. Together we enter into the mystery of Christ and help to bring all people to Christ with the strong gentleness and zeal of St. Francis de Sales.

Over the years, NASN has developed bi-laws, a governing board, and hired a coordinator. It currently features 20 member groups:

*Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters),
St. Joseph Province*

*Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters),
Mary Immaculate Province*

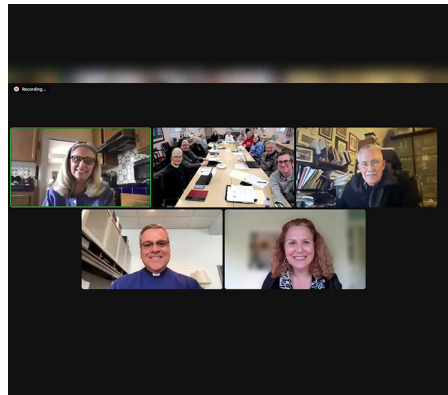
*Daughters of St. Francis de Sales (St. Francis de Sales Association)
Sons of St. Francis de Sales (St. Francis de Sales Association)*

DeSales Secular Institute

*Embraced by God / DeSales Resources and Ministries
Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales*

*National Visitation Salesian Network**Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales**Oblates of St. Francis de Sales,**Toledo-Detroit Province**Oblates of St. Francis de Sales,**Wilmington Province**Salesian Cooperators,**St. Philip the Apostle Province**Salesian Cooperators,**St. Andrew the Apostle Province**Salesian Cooperators,**St. Joseph Province (Canada)**Salesians of Don Bosco,**St. Philip the Apostle Province**Salesians of Don Bosco,**St. Andrew the Apostle Province**Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco,**St. Joseph Province**Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary,**First Federation**Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary,**Second Federation**Volunteers with Don Bosco***Recent Activities**

In the years leading up to the 400th anniversary year of the death of St. Francis de Sales, NASN coordinated an effort to have a joint petition of the Don Bosco Salesian Family, the OSFS, and the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales to the Holy See to write a letter on St. Francis de Sales. While other Salesian entities, such as the Visitation monastery in Annecy and the bishop of Annecy likewise petitioned the Pope, an acknowledgment from the Vatican Secretary of State's office shows that the NASN-inspired petition made an impact. The result is Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Totum Amoris Est*.



2023 NASN Annual Meeting
Photo by Fr. John Puntino, SDB

Since 2021, NASN has collaborated with DeSales Resources and Ministries, now known as Embraced By God and DeSales University in sponsoring the annual Fr. John Graden Memorial Lecture. In 2022, it helped to promote DeSales Secular Institute's Film Festival for high school and college students.

What does it mean to be Salesian?

For us in Don Bosco's Salesian Family, we think of Salesian as referring to Don Bosco. This is just one expression of Salesian spirituality and ministry. Even before the 2022 Strenna on St. Francis de Sales, "Do all through love, nothing through constraint," and more so since then, Don Bosco's Salesian Family groups have become increasingly conscious of the "de Sales" Salesian dimension of our spirit and style of youth ministry. Don Bosco did not give us a treatise on St. Francis de Sales nor did he promote a systematic study of the saint's writings. Instead, he imbued his spirit, present in the popular devotions of Piedmont in his lifetime, and lived and applied his gentleness, kindness and apostolic zeal in his work with young people.

As the recent work, *The Nineteenth Century Salesian Pentecost* illustrates, St. Francis de Sales inspired many founders, foundresses, and groups. They, too, developed their distinctive Salesian spirit and styles of ministry.

Why is it important to belong to NASN?

Each member organization treasures a wealth of formative material on St. Francis de Sales that now becomes more available to all groups. Moreover, all groups working together have a much greater potential of "refreshing our North American culture with the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and our Founders" than each one alone.

At NASN meetings, other groups look to the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Salesian Sisters, and the Salesian Cooperators for the greater North American and worldwide influence that we have. The importance of Don Bosco's Salesian Family groups participating in NASN lies in the contributions we can make and the enrichment we can gain from other groups.

What is NASN planning to do in 2023?

At the 2023 annual meeting, which took place from Monday, April 17, to Wednesday, April 19, at Stella Niagara, NY, the members reviewed and revised its five-year strategic plan. The plan contains two goals.

- 1.) To promote and grow Salesian spirituality in North America through member communication, collaboration, and synergy; and
- 2.) To increase vocations/membership in clerical, consecrated, and lay Salesian organizations in North America.



2023 NASN Annual Meeting in-person participants
Photo by Fr. John Puntino, SDB

To increase communication, collaboration, and synergy, NASN will produce a quarterly newsletter for its member groups. Ian Kinney, NASN Coordinator, will put together a Speakers Bureau to facilitate access to Salesian speakers. To increase vocations, NASN will use its website, www.salesiannews.org, to extend information about member groups to a wider population. It is also exploring ways of sharing vocation literature and materials from member groups with diocesan vocation offices and at youth and young adult gatherings. Of particular interest is how member groups are capitalizing on Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter.



Fr. Thomas Patalong, SDB
Photo courtesy of the SUE Provincial Archives

their immigrant countrymen in New York. Earlier in the year, he had completed doctoral studies at the University of Turin, and he was three days shy of his 29th birthday.

Thomas Patalong was born on December 19, 1881, at Kosztow-Pless (Pszczyna in Polish) in Upper Silesia, which was part of the German Empire at the time. He entered the Salesian school at Lombriasco, Italy, in 1895 and made his novitiate at Foglizzo between 1898 and 1900. Fr. Rua presided over his clerical investiture. He professed at Foglizzo on September 30, 1900, and made perpetual vows at Turin in 1905. He was ordained at Ivrea on June 29, 1907.

Fr. Patalong was oriented to the United States as an assistant pastor at Transfiguration in 1910-1912. Serving as confessor for the school community at Hawthorne in those years, he observed a declining enrollment and petitioned Fr. Ernest Coppo, the provincial, for the admission of Polish boys. He began to recruit them from all over the Northeast, and they began to come in 1912. Officially assigned to Hawthorne in 1912-1913, Fr. Patalong organized the Polish section of the school. At the same time, he undertook ministry to Polish people in the area, especially in Port Chester, and as far off as Providence, RI. He spent a year (1913-1914) in Buffalo serving Poles. His personal file

Salesian Pioneers of North America

Fr. Thomas Patalong, SDB

BY FR. MIKE MENDEL, SDB

Fr. Thomas Patalong, SDB, pioneered Salesian work for Polish Americans as a missionary preacher, co-founder of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, NJ, and founding pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Mahwah, NJ.

Fr. Patalong's arrival in the young province of St. Philip the Apostle on December 16, 1910, was a blessing after earlier, unsuccessful tries at providing Polish Salesians to minister to

in the archives includes numerous letters from Polish pastors in that diocese asking for his services, and a telegram from Bishop Charles Cotton to Fr. Coppo testifying, "I part with Father Patalong with great regret."

When tensions between the dual Polish and Italian programs at Hawthorne became too much, Fr. Patalong led the way to the property that the Salesians already owned in Ramsey, NJ, in 1914. The first director there, Fr. Robert Wieczorek, got the neglected farmhouse ready for the Polish boys and confreres to move over from Hawthorne (in a blizzard) on April 3, 1915, Holy Saturday, and to found the Don Bosco Polish Institute.

The number of Poles and other Slavs in the neighboring town of Mahwah and across the state line in the town of Ramapo, NY. (including Suffern), induced the Salesians to undertake founding a parish for them in 1915. Fr. Patalong became the pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church while also teaching at Ramsey. In 1919, Fr. Coppo sent him to the Don Bosco Institute in Philadelphia as part of the staff for the trade school and oratory. When that work was closed in 1921, he returned to his former responsibilities in Mahwah and Ramsey. He became a U.S. citizen in 1927 at Hackensack, NJ.

Fr. Patalong accompanied Fr. Richard Pittini, the provincial, to Turin in 1932 for the 14th General Chapter (May 16-18) as the province's substitute delegate. In December 1936, he handed the parish over to Fr. Wieczorek; there were 100 families from four nationalities and an elementary school with 72 pupils, taught by the Felician Sisters. Fr. Patalong remained in Ramsey as confessor for the community, both Salesians and students (all of whom were boarders).

In October 1937, he was recalled to Turin and went on to Poland, assigned to the Salesian parish and oratory at Plock in the Warsaw Province. His director there was Fr. Stephen Plywaczyk, another of Ramsey's co-founders and a former director there.

He left Plock in 1939 for the province of São Paulo, Brazil, and so was spared the horrors of the German occupation of his country, which saw the internment of many of the Salesians, including Fr. Plywaczyk, and the martyrdom of not a few. In

Brazil, he was attached to the parish in Ascurra until late 1946, except for one year at a parish in Rio Dos Cedros. In 1946, he passed through New Rochelle on his way back to Poland, where he was appointed confessor for the oratory and parish at Rumia for a couple of years, and from 1948 at the technical school in Lodz. He died at Lodz on May 1, 1950, at 68 years of age.

At Immaculate Heart in Mahwah in the 1960s, young Louie Molinelli heard the fond memories of Fr. Patalong, "an icon," that old-time parishioners kept for many years.



Happy family
Photo by studioroman

Parenting the "Don Bosco Way" Part II

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 re-print 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.

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 insists that at the base of a healthy system of education is the establishment of an open and positive environment. His system of education may be compared to a healthy, sturdy tree that generously spreads itself high and wide because it is also solidly rooted in the earth. The roots or the invisible principles of Don Bosco's 'system of expression' are 'Rapport,' 'Religion,' and 'Reason,' while the trunk or visible body of this educational method is 'Presence.' These are the four principles of his educational system. It is hoped that parents of all creeds and cultures will find in them a lighthouse of wisdom to take them through the storms and tempests of daily parenting.

Rapport

If an open environment is crucial to the learning process, establishing a *relationship* is its indispensable foundation. We learn faster from people we love. We learn faster *because* we are loved. An atmosphere of trust and acceptance is the key to healthy growth. This is the place for parents to begin—love between each other and love for their children.

But how do parents establish rapport? The guiding principle, Don Bosco advocates, is to start by establishing a strong bond of togetherness: "Love what your child loves, so that your child may love what you love." What is being proposed is a method that starts from what fascinates children: games, music, fantasy, sports... In no way does it mean buying more toys or getting your child registered in more activity and competitions... It simply means being interested in the things that interest your children. Don Bosco said, "*It is not enough to love the children; the children must know that you love them.*" This is realized in your concern for *their* interests.

But this time and energy on "loving what they love" or "letting them know you love them" is for a purpose, that is, that they may love *what you love*, that they may begin to value the things that you as a parent value. Very often, we adults tend to force



Mother and daughter read books at the library
Photo by globalmoments from Getty Images

down values on our children—we want them to work hard, to study, to show greater responsibility, to pray, to be punctual, to be honest... Unfortunately, we want them to live by these values that we cherish without first ensuring that we establish a *relationship of trust* with them. Don Bosco's advice 'to love what they love so that they love what you love' emphasizes that important link between the 'parent-child relationship' and the 'parental demand.' For him, the relationship is chronologically first and is as important as the demand to live by values. "My parents are my best friends" is one of the rare compliments parents can ever receive from their children. Within such a trusting relationship, children are almost always ready to listen and to live by the values their parents want them to follow. Arriving at this depth of confidence, every parent will know, requires much time, patience, and humility.

How does one prepare the ground for building confidence?

Listening: In order to love what young people love, parents must first listen to the things they are saying, to the things they are not saying, to the things they are afraid to say, and to the things they themselves take for granted. Observation and good listening skills are important because they will help parents to discover and anticipate their children's needs.

Availability: Reaching out to where young people feel most at home is a sure way to gain their respect and love. This means spending time, being with them in their play and encouraging them in what they value.

Appreciation: The task of ‘drawing them beyond themselves’ [i.e. *educere* (Latin), to draw forth] is firmly founded on an appreciation of who they already are. This means encouraging them to feel proud of themselves, their physical traits, their interests, and their talents. This also means not comparing them with others—a common temptation for most parents. Appreciation demands an acceptance of children as they are so that they learn self-acceptance and develop a healthy self-esteem, which is the foundation for mature living.

Creativity: Since love is full of surprises, parents will endear themselves to their children with a lively and creative eagerness to surprise them and thereby sustain their enthusiasm for living. Picnics, excursions, encouraging initiative, development of talents—these are all essential parts of education. They encourage creativity, reinforce positive self-esteem, foster participation and sharing and keep alive family togetherness.

Read this article in Spanish.

Part III—“Religion”—will appear in the June issue of Snippets.



The registration and payment links will go live on Monday, May 15, for the Salesian Family Festival.

The first 200 families or individuals to register and pay their fee will receive a free gift with they arrive at the Festival.

Do not miss your chance to participate in this wonderful Salesian gathering.



In the Salesian Family Know



*(from left to right) Fr. Tom Brennan, SDB, Lisa Ewing, Rainier Jost, Carolyn Jost, Elizabeth Wlodzimierski, and Garrin and Leona Jost
Photo by Mrs. Lisa Ewing, Salesian Cooperator*

Salesian Family Gatherings *Midwest Cooperators Gather for Spring Formation*

BY MRS. LISA EWING, SALESIAN COOPERATOR

The Midwest Salesian Cooperators gathered for Spring Formation on Saturday, April 22, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Bettendorf, IA. In attendance were Cooperators from the Artemide Zatti Center in Chicago, the Mary Mazzarello Center in Crystal Lake, and members of the Provincial Council. We came together in Iowa to support a new pre-center in the Quad Cities, enjoy the fellowship of the council, and share laughter and lots of good food, especially Diana’s French toast and a very large apple crisp.

Also on this day, two new Cooperators make their promises. We would like to welcome Garrin and Carolyn Jost to the Salesian Family! They are the parents of Rainer and Leona who accompanied us throughout all of the formation meetings and were present to share the induction with their parents. Garrin is an elementary teacher in the East Moline, IL, school district. Carolyn works in IT and loves being a mom.



*Group photo from Salesian Family Day in Montréal
Photo by Mr. Pierre Larocque, Salesian Cooperator*

Salesian Family Day in Montréal

BY MRS. ROSA D'ADDARIO, SALESIAN COOPERATOR

On Saturday, April 15, 62 members of the Salesian Family from Montréal, Sherbrooke, and Cornwall gathered at the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre (Don Bosco YLC) in Montréal for their "Spring" Salesian Family Day. In attendance were the SDBs, FMAs, members of ADMA and VIDES, Salesian Cooperators from both the French-speaking and English-speaking groups, Past Pupils of the FMA (RdP), and leaders from DBLM (Don Bosco Latino Ministry). Fr. John Puntino was also among the participants.

The main theme was Saint Francis de Sales: His Message, His Relevance, His day-to-day Impact. The three Apostolic Letters on St. Francis de Sales from St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II, and Pope Francis served as the basic texts.

The keynote speakers were Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB, and Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA. After the presentations, group discussions took place in French, English, and Spanish. The presence of Br. Gérard Richard, SDB, our 100-year-old Salesian coadjutor brother, was a gift from God, indeed!

To conclude the day, the Eucharist of Divine Mercy Weekend



*Collage of highlights from Salesian Family Day in Montréal
Arranged by Mr. Pierre Larocque, Salesian Cooperator*

was presided by Fr. Tom Dunne, who also gave a pertinent homily with Sr. Francine Guilmette, FMA, helping with the French translation and the music ministry. It had been a good time had by all.

YOU'RE INVITED

TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS WITH THE SALESIAN SISTERS

Daily we discover the unique path God calls us to walk to live holy lives.

Join us in uplifting and interceding for those discerning their vocations by praying the rosary with us on Zoom.

April 30th at 7:30pm EST
RSVP to happynun@salesiansisters.org

Promotional for the monthly Rosary for Vocations
Designed by Sr. Elfie del Rosario, FMA

Salesian Family Opportunities

Monthly Rosary for Vocations

Please join the Salesian Sisters for a Rosary for vocations on the Fourth Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm ET. The first one took place last month. The next one will occur on Sunday, May 28.

Take a moment to also fill out this quick registration form!

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FAMILY FESTIVAL

MASS, ROSARY, FOOD*, GAMES & MAY CROWNING!

(*AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND/OR BRING YOUR OWN)

SATURDAY MAY 20, 2023

TIME: 12PM-6PM
4:30PM -MAY CROWNING
5PM -MASS

MARIAN SHRINE
174 FILORS LANE
STONY POINT, NY

Promotion for this year's Mary Help of Christians Family Festival
Designed by Meg Rodriguez, Salesian Cooperator

Mary Help of Christians Family Festival

Join us for this year's Mary Help of Christians Family Festival! It will take place on Saturday, May 20, at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY, from 12:00 pm ET to 6:00 pm ET. Let's celebrate Our Lady and experience fun and presence in the style of our Salesian charism.

Young Adult Retreat

Join the province office of youth and young adult ministry for this year's Young Adult Retreat (YAR). It will take place from Thursday, June 1, through Sunday, June 4, at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY, and costs \$265. There are scholarships available if there are people interested and need some assistance.

Apply for a scholarship, and register for this year's YAR by Thursday, May 18!

Additional questions? Email Vicky Weekley at vweekley@salesianym.com.

The advertisement has been designed by Amy Stockinger.

"PRAYER IS NOT PRIMARILY AN ACTIVITY, BUT A WAY OF BEING WITH GOD" - FR. ROMANO GUARDINI

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

JUNE 1-4, 2023

MARIAN SHRINE IN STONY POINT, NY

THEME: SETTING THE FOUNDATION

RETREAT PREACHER: FR. STEVE DEMAIO, SDB

COST: \$265 (SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)

AGES 18-30

EMAIL [VWEEKLEY@SALESIANYM.COM](mailto:vweekley@salesianym.com) FOR MORE INFO

TAKE A BREATH • TALK TO GOD • LISTEN • SEEK JOY • FIND COMMUNITY • ENJOY NATURE



JUNE 8 - 11, 2023

Four days living in the *joyful* spirit of
ST. MARY MAZZARELLO
 Co-Foundress of the Salesian Sisters

Daily Mass
Morning & Evening Prayer
Eucharistic Adoration
Rosary
Daily Talks
Confession
Low Ropes
Campfire
Hiking, Sports
And more!

COME
 PRAY
 PLAY
 SING
 HIKE
 REST

The Mornese Experience

Advertisement for the Mornese Experience
Designed by Sr. Elfie Del Rosario, FMA

Mornese Experience

Are you a young woman who wants to immerse herself in the spirit of Mother Mazzarello?

Register today and join us next month!



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



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



**"May the Holy Virgin protect us all
and keep us always as Her very own."**



- St. John Bosco



Our email address is:

contact@donboscosalesianportal.org



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