

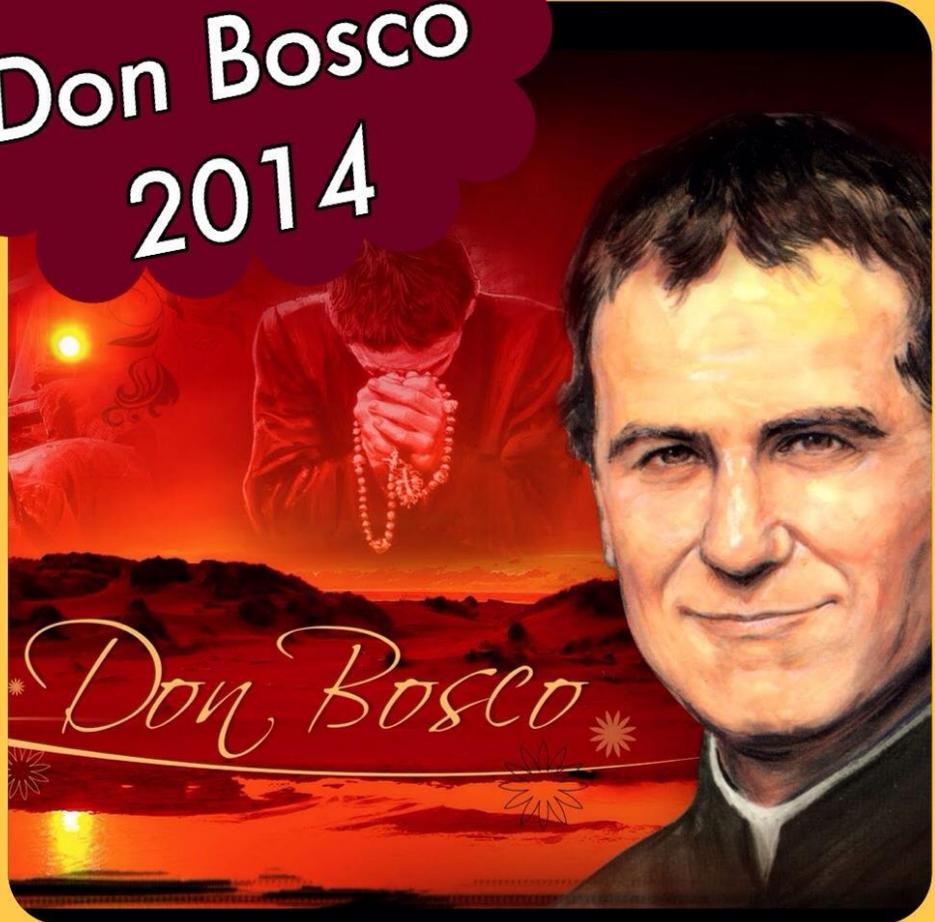
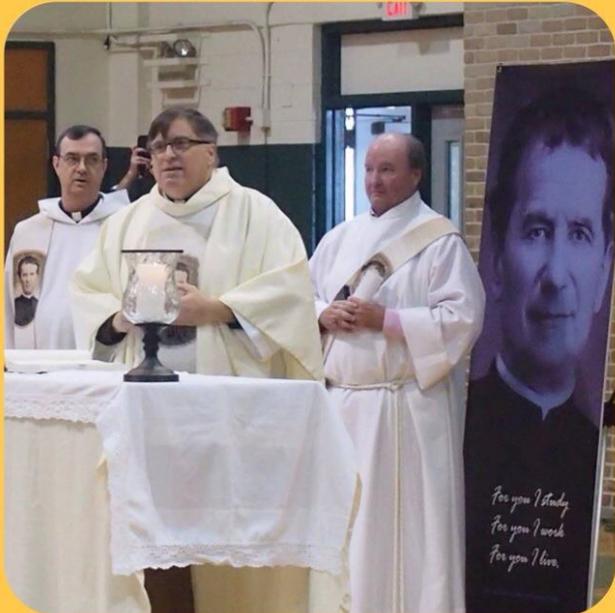


BOSCO NEWS

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2014



Feast of Don Bosco 2014



Salesians of Don Bosco | Province of St. Philip the Apostle | Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Signs and Bearers of God's Love for the Young and the Poor

www.salesianym.com

BOSCO NEWS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2
FEBRUARY 2014

Salesians of Don Bosco
Province of St. Philip the Apostle
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3-4 **Not So Ordinary Time**
- 5 **Ordinary Holiness**
- 6 **Extraordinary Time**
- 7 **Three Unforgettable Days**
- 8 **Finding Jesus Everywhere at JLR**
- 9 **March for Life 2014**
- 10 **Taking a Stand for Those Who Can't**
- 11 **Salesian Schools of New Orleans Celebrate Don Bosco**
- 12 **Collage Church of Our Lady of Rosary, Port Chester, NY**
- 13 **Collage – St. John Neumann Students Celebrate with LaSalle in Miami, FL**
- 14 **Archbishop Shaw High School, Marrero LA Celebrate Feast of Don Bosco**
- 15-16 **Good Night – What's So Extraordinary About the Ordinary?**
- 17 **Coming Soon**

Would you be interested in writing or submitting a photo for a future issue of Bosco News? Please send your contact information to: bosconews@salesianym.com.

“NOT-SO-ORDINARY-TIME”

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it seems to be the longest. No longer do we enjoy the glow of the Advent wreath, twinkling lights and nostalgic Christmas songs. The first solemnity of the year was sucked away as we vacuumed up confetti, glitter and stale chips from a spent New Year's party. The decorations are packed, the festivities are over and the priests have donned their bright green chasuble marking the on-set of the liturgical season known as “Ordinary Time.”

Rachael Marie Pineiro
Program Coordinator
Salesian Office of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry
New Rochelle, NY



Ordinary time. Growing up, I never knew what that meant, but it always sounded dull. After the holidays, it feels like a let-down, like a dry patch in the year when nothing interesting happens: ordinary schedules, routines, homework, alarm clocks, etc. Welcome back to the grind of everyday life! A period of *ordinary*, boring time that will stretch for a seemingly unspecified number of weeks until the priests tell us it's time to do something interesting, like burn palms and put ashes on our foreheads.

Perhaps you can relate to this way of thinking, and if so, I would like to share with you some of the insights I've gained in recent years about this under-appreciated part of the year, and hopefully (like me) you will begin to think of ordinary time as not-so-ordinary after all.

Ordinary Time actually refers to “ordered time,” meaning “numbered,” and takes place in the stretch between the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Lent. (This year from January 12 to March 5th.) It is during this time that we focus on the three years of Jesus' public ministry. What did Jesus do during this time? Cured the sick, healed the lame, gave sight to the blind, forgave sins, drove out demons, performed miracles and raised the dead. Not only did He change the lives of the people he encountered during those three years, Jesus changed the entire world.

I don't know about you – but this sounds pretty out of the ordinary to me.

Not only do we get to take the next three weeks to reflect on what Jesus did during this time, we are called to action ourselves. Matthew 16:24 says “Take up your cross and follow me.” Jesus is calling us to do what He did – to live like He did, which is perhaps the most extraordinary thing possible.



(Continues on next page)

“NOT-SO-ORDINARY-TIME”

You might be thinking, “I can barely pull off the miracle of getting my homework done in time. How am I supposed to “give sight to the blind? Raise the dead?”

Rachael Marie Pineiro
Program Coordinator
Salesian Office of Youth and
Young Adult Ministry
New Rochelle, NY



We are called to do this in our own way. Maybe you can open the eyes of your friends to compassion. Next time a nerdy freshman trips over his own feet and spills his cafeteria tray all over the floor, you won't join your friends in laughing at him. You'll help him clean it up and buy him lunch. When it comes to a question of popularity, consider Jesus' words, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matt 16:26).

Maybe you can raise the dead by pulling your buddy out of the grave of despair after getting a college rejection letter, or your sister who's breaking up with her boyfriend. There are endless opportunities to be Christ to the people around you.

Jesus calls us to action: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12).

Befriend the new student at your school, forgive your “enemies,” smile when you walk down the hallway. Especially during this “Ordinary Time,” let's try hard to imitate our God who “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3), who spreads a message of joy.

I know you can do it – so I challenge you be *extraordinary*.



ORDINARY HOLINESS

What is ordinary time in accordance to the liturgical year?

The liturgical year is divided up into six portions: Advent, Christmas time, Lent, Sacred Paschal Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary time. Ordinary time is divided into two sections: first for approximately four to eight weeks after Christmas, and second, six months after Easter.

During the season of Ordinary time, we witness the life of Christ. We get a chance to see all the conversions, miracles, and teachings of our Lord and Savior. It is a time for us Christians to mature and grow in faith by constantly reflecting on the extraordinary works of Christ. The only thing ordinary about ordinary time is that it takes up about half of the liturgical year.

Don Bosco used to teach his boys that sanctity could be achieved in our daily lives. His common saying was: "you become successful by not doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things extraordinarily well." He taught us five important things that every Catholic can do in order to achieve holiness.

1. Offering oneself to the Holy Eucharist
2. Committing oneself to the Lord through daily scripture readings and prayers
3. Living the commandment of love
4. Respecting one's body as the Holy Temple of the Lord
5. Having a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother

Don Bosco along with many other Saints looked to the ordinary life of Christ in order to achieve sanctity. Many of the Saints followed these five criteria in one way or another to develop that intimate relationship with Christ. Everyone strives to become better, but the way we achieve our goals is through discipline and looking to our role models for guidance.

I strongly believe that in order to become better Catholics, we should discipline ourselves to follow these five criteria and find a Saint that can be our role model. The Church has an abundant amount of Saints to choose from. Striving to become better Catholics, we look at the extraordinary works of Jesus Christ during ordinary time for motivation, guidance, and nourishment. If it works for me, it will definitely work for you. We can conclude that ordinary time, after all, is not so ordinary!

Simon Song

Prenovice

Originally from

Bronx, NY – Simon is in
second Year

Formation to become a
Salesian of Don Bosco at
Holy Rosary Parish
Port Chester, NY



EXTRAORDINARY TIME



Rocco Reece
St. Thomas More Youth Group
Hauppauge, NY

Well, it's that time of the year again. Christmas is over and Lent hasn't started yet: Ordinary Time. A time when there really isn't that much to look forward to. Many people find this time in the Liturgical Year to be incredibly boring. That's because they see it at face value. We should really call this period "Extraordinary Time,"

because it is meant for us to reflect on the time of Jesus' public ministry. This is the time that we, as Christians, are called most vigorously to act like Christ, as He is giving us examples of how to live like Him.

Ordinary Time began at the end of January with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. When Heaven opened up and God told the people to follow Jesus, His work began. He would go on a three year journey to teach the world how to love their neighbor, forgive one another and live like Him. In scripture, we are given clear examples of how to do this.

In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says to "take up your cross and follow me." Essentially, he is asking us to imitate Him. We all carry our own burdens, or crosses, and we all have the ability to follow his example. This does not necessarily mean to suffer like He had to, but to reflect upon His responses to the suffering of the world. Throughout Jesus' public ministry, there was a common theme in every lesson that He taught: love. With every reading, Jesus encourages us to use our gifts and to love as He did, because that is how we can make a difference. This can be done by the simplest actions. Lend a hand to someone who needs it. Let a friend know that you care about them.

Jesus' ministry was filled with actions that we can repeat as well as those we cannot. However, every action is important. Forgiving the woman who cried at his feet of her sins was just as revolutionary as curing the lepers. By this logic, if the action that we see as simple has equal weight to the remarkable, then every action that we perform in His name is just as extraordinary.

Sometimes, these actions are easier said than done. No matter how hard we try, our burdens will cause us to trip and fall. They could be caused by our own faults or by the faults of others. This is when God tests our faith the most. We all know how easy it is to let our struggles weigh us down, but God asks us to keep walking towards Him. If we listen to what Jesus has to tell us in the scriptures, God's love will become stronger in us and in the people that we touch.

Jesus' ministry teaches us that ordinary actions with extraordinary love are the most impactful. Luckily, we have the ability to make that impact just as Jesus did. So go forth and be extraordinary!



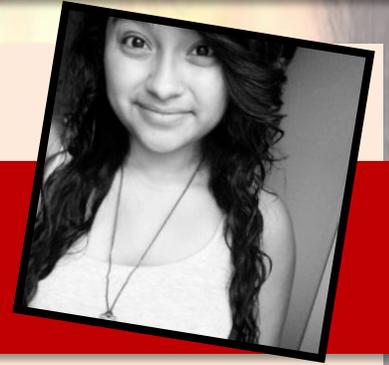
THREE UNFORGETTABLE DAYS

It truly amazes me how God makes things happen. God gives us so many opportunities to come closer to him; we just have to take that chance. For me, God gave me the chance to participate in the January Leadership Retreat; it was honestly the most amazing experience ever. While in JLR I learned many things that encouraged me to take leadership in my parish.



**Susana Benitez
(Susie)**

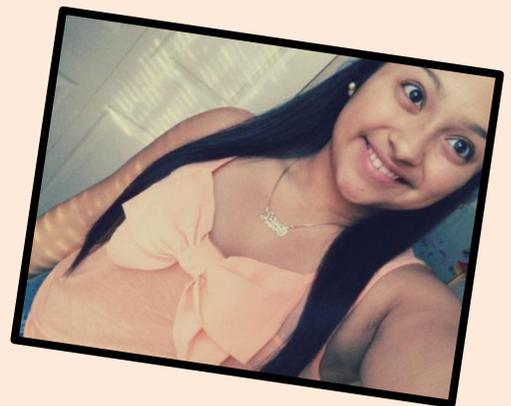
*St. Philip Benizi Church
Belle Glade, FL*



The day before I left to go to the retreat I was nervous that I would not experience anything special, I felt as though nothing would actually change in my life after the retreat. Needless to say, I was completely wrong. Everyone at JLR was awe-inspiring, always making you feel comfortable, and made you feel like you weren't alone. My small group was where I felt most comfortable, that is where I saw Jesus the most during the retreat. Whenever someone would speak, their words were so powerful that it really made you reflect on everything. It sincerely felt as though Jesus himself was speaking through everyone. It was at this moment that Jesus answered many of the questions I had been asking for years.

Throughout these three days there were many activities and presentations given, from the talks, to the music, to adoration. This is where I learned to realize how we need to have Jesus in our lives and how we should not let detours get in our way of our relationship with him. During this time I found Jesus present again! All the Masses we attended were beyond great but the one that impacted me the most was our final grand Mass. Everyone at that moment was full of the Holy Spirit; we were all smiling, singing, and looking at one another as though this was our moment and although this would be our last day together as a new Salesian family, we knew we would never forget this, each other, and what we learned here at JLR.

I am now living the spirit of the retreat - not alone, but with Jesus, Don Bosco, a new family, and a new mindset that is ready to take on the world and all the detours it comes with. JLR 2014 was an unforgettable three days for me that I will forever cherish. I encourage those who get the chance to go that they may take that opportunity that God is giving them and that they may enjoy every single minute of it. You won't regret it, I promise you. Come and live out the spirit of the retreat with me and the many others who have been a part of this journey. Join our JLR family!



FINDING JESUS EVERYWHERE AT JLR



Dakota Gibbs
Our Lady of The Valley
Orange, NJ

During my time at JLR, I saw Jesus everywhere! He was in the activities, the fun, the Mass (of course) but most of all -- I saw Him in the people and the bonds we made that weekend. In my school, we say "Christ among us," and then we all bow to each other. We do that to recognize that Jesus is in each of us. That's the best way to say it: Jesus was, and still is, in all of us.

I also saw Jesus in the challenges posed by the retreat. How He gave us the strength to go out of our comfort zone and fully give of ourselves to invest to the program, to help further go into deeper in our understanding of our faith.

Although, I am a performer and a bit outgoing at times, my demeanor is very calm and mellow, and not usually willing to mingle with people I do not know., I have always had a tendency to stay in my comfort zone, especially when it came to my faith, unless I had to adapt to situations. However, after JLR I am no longer afraid to step out of it at anytime, -- in fact, I even step into situations that require me to lead.

For example, I led prayer and did a reflection for my youth group for the first time. Because of JLR, I no longer have to look back on my life to see how Jesus helped me; instead, I can see how He helps me now and how I can spread this ability to my friends and family. It was magical yet awesome all at the same time! I want to bring back the atmosphere that JLR gave us: a safe, fun environment where experiences and faith can be shared. However, most of all I want to help people meet Jesus - not only in my parish but the people around me. I want others to share in the joy that Jesus gives us that I witnessed at JLR. Remember reading it is one thing and living it is another, so I urge anyone whomever wants to experience a spiritual, life changing and fun retreat, do it; there's nothing to lose but a lot to gain!

I am proud to be part of the Salesian Youth Movement!



MARCH FOR LIFE 2014

March for life is an experience I'll never forget. It was something I had been looking forward to since the beginning of the school year. Being my second year going, I was amazed at how many people went, despite the event being in the middle of the week, but being surrounded by thousands of people trying to speak up against something they believe wasn't right -- was astonishing.

After so many hours of not sleeping, it was such a relief to get there, but then everyone was so hyper they forgot all about sleeping. The most painful thing was seeing how many babies are being aborted each and every second of the day. Last year, I remember how pro-choice people would stand at the side and tell us that we were fighting for something that wasn't necessary. Some don't seem to notice the danger it causes. The issue isn't just about babies dying (because that's how most people see it) it's about the damage it causes the mother, herself. Many speak of what they think they know, not of what they really should know.

Standing up for someone else's life means a lot to me. I always look at my little cousin and see in him my motivation to keep on fighting for abortion to stop. He was a miracle; seeing him in this world brings so much happiness. I know for a fact that many sacrifices will have to happen in order to get what you want and sometimes you don't always get what you want the way you want. I was given freedom of speech the minute I was born and I will continue using it to fight PEACEFULLY for an end to abortion. Prayer will always be the key, but in order to get something done, you have to take action. My name is Lizeth Ocampo and fighting for the right to live is something I fight for.



Liz Ocampo
St. John Bosco Parish
Chicago, IL



TAKING A STAND FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T

My name is Ashley Reith and this past January was my third year attending March for Life. It is amazing to be in one place with so many people that are all taking a stand for the same thing. It is such a powerful feeling standing up for those who can't. During the march we passed by a group of young people standing off to the side holding banners and signs. As we approached them I could see they were from Canada. Their signs read, "Canadians stand with Pro-Life America." It was amazing to see that people from a different country traveled to support the prolife movement in the United States.



Ashley Reith
*St. Petersburg Catholic
High School*
St. Petersburg, FL

Further along the march there were men and women off to the side holding signs. They held signs saying things like "I am a victim of rape and I love my baby" or "I was conceived by rape and I love my life." It was moving to see that and it brought tears to my eyes. Many people believe that because of rape happening in the world, abortion should be legal, but those men and women showed that even though terrible things happen in the world, God can still bring beautiful things and people out of the experience. That proves that rape is no justification for continuing the cycle of violence and killing an innocent baby.

Although there were many positive and moving aspects to the march, there were also some difficulties. On the day of the march, the temperature was nine degrees with a wind chill of negative nine degrees. For anyone, especially a Floridian who is used to warm weather, it was difficult to endure the harsh winds. I had on so many layers I couldn't even reach to pull my hood up. Marching in so many layers was not comfortable at all. I also found out two days prior that I had a sinus infection. I was constantly blowing my nose and my body ached. Despite all the layers and feeling under the weather, I did not let it affect my motivation or positive attitude for the march.



As I came to the end of the march, I saw a sign that said "UCF for Life" and a banner that read "University of Central Florida Catholic Student Union." I was overjoyed when I saw that because that is where I will be attending college starting in the fall. It was exciting to know that next year I could be at the march representing UCF. Knowing that I will have a support system of peers with the same Pro-Life beliefs as me is satisfying. I know I don't stand alone in the fight of the prolife movement, and now I know I will not stand alone at college. After all, we are the "Pro-Life Generation".

SALESIAN SCHOOLS OF NEW ORLEANS CELEBRATE FEAST OF DON BOSCO

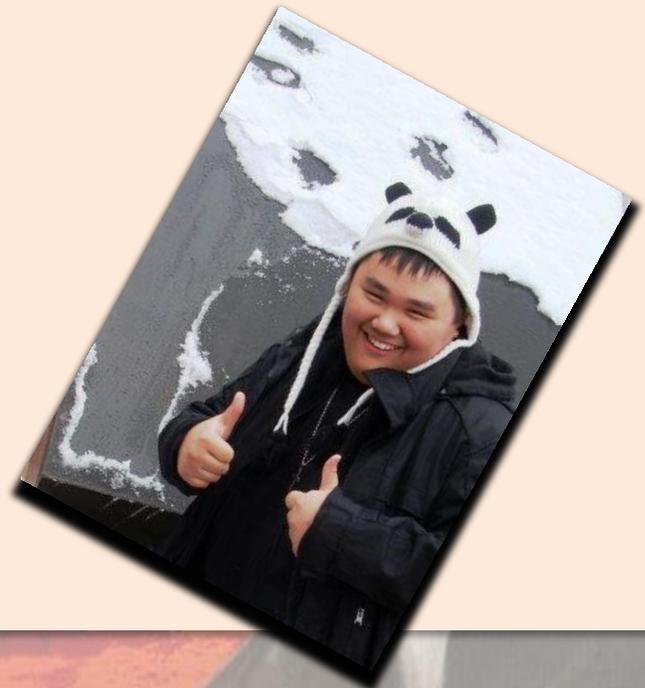


Alex Le
Class of 2014
Archbishop Shaw High School
Marrero, LA

Every year on January 31st, we celebrate the Feast of Saint John Bosco. St. John Bosco opened an oratory for boys who needed guidance, a place to stay or a place hang out. Don Bosco was there for them and brought them together at the oratory for prayer and games. He passed away on January 31st 1888, but it became a tradition to remember Don Bosco on that day each year, for the man he was and what he did for his boys.

The Salesian schools of Jefferson Parish come together at Shaw High School to prepare a Mass and celebrate the Feast of Don Bosco. Father Louis Molinelli served the Mass, and we honored Don Bosco with prayer and by coming together like his boys did at his oratory. Shaw and AOL's Student Council Presidents Cameron Troxler and Alison Mccarthy helped put together games and start a tradition called Battle of the Birds, to have a friendly competition between Shaw and AOL. The two schools came together to play games like Don Bosco did with his boys when he opened the oratory. Both schools played well, but in the end, Academy of Our Lady brought home the trophy. The Battle of the Birds is a new tradition that will bring Academy of Our Lady and Shaw together for a day of prayer and games each year. Both schools experienced firsthand what it is to be a Salesian, and what it is like to experience the oratory.

What does Don Bosco mean to you? Don Bosco means a lot to me. He focused on the youth and taught them through games how to do the right things in life. His teachings were passed on to the Salesian Community and onto the future generations. Those teachings taught me how to be a better person and how to take my life more seriously through prayer – and that I, too, can be holy.

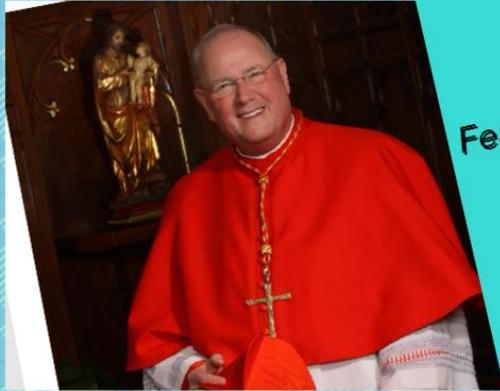


CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, PORT CHESTER NY



Feast of Don Bosco! Smiles and Blessings in Port Chester NY!

Church of Our Lady of The Rosary welcomed His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan to join in the celebrations



With great joy and gratitude to God the Salesians of Don Bosco and all the faithful of Our Lady of Rosary Church invite you to welcome and celebrate with

His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

The Solemnity of **Saint John Bosco**
Friday, January 31, 2014

6:00PM Holy Mass
Church of Our Lady of The Rosary
22 Don Bosco Place • Port Chester, New York

Following the Mass
Cardinal Dolan

"Don Bosco lived a pastoral experience in his first Oratory which serves as a model, it was for the young..."

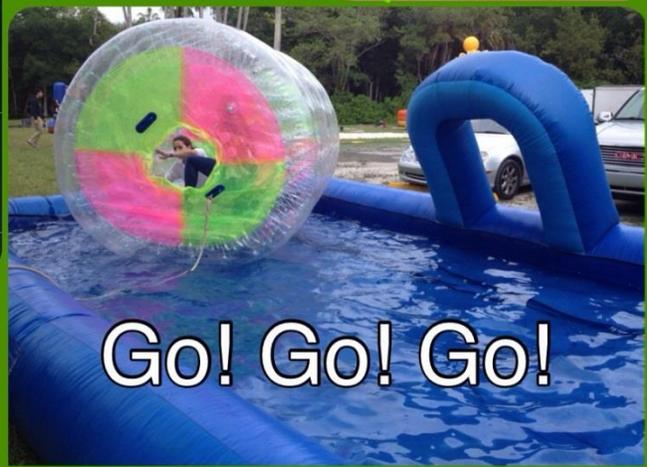


ST. JOHN NEUMANN STUDENTS CELEBRATE WITH LASALLE IN MIAMI, FL



Miami
Mostly Clear
75°

Saturday	Today	81	70		
Now	11PM	12AM	1AM	2AM	3AM
☾	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁
75	73	73	72	72	72
Sunday	☁	81	70		



ARCHBISHOP SHAW HIGH SCHOOL, MARRERO LA CELEBRATE FEAST OF DON BOSCO



Seniors make their entrance at Eaglemania Games!



Junior Chris Lingoni & Senior Brice Cheron compete in the dizzy bat race.



Juniors Joseph Prevost, Dante Damico, Darrell Ingram, De'Linseyian Edwards, Dalton Guidry & Jordan Pham exert their strength to beat the freshmen in tug-o-war.



THE GOOD NIGHT

WHAT'S SO EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THE ORDINARY?

Would you applaud another person walking down the street? Would hearing someone speak your name cause you to be filled with incredible emotion? Would the smile or laughter of another person make you feel as you just accomplished something remarkable? Would a little hug possibly bring a tear to your eye? Each of these actions, walking, speaking, smiling, laughing, and hugging are all pretty common, familiar actions. Though all are good, positive actions, they are basically ordinary ones that don't usually seem to warrant further reflection. Yet, there is much that is extraordinary to be found in each one of them.



Fr. Abraham Feliciano, SDB
Province Delegate for
Youth Ministry

St. Philip the Apostle Province

For those of us who have had the opportunity, the joy, and the blessing to spend time around babies or very little children, everything ordinary has the potential to be and usually is extraordinary. Being the uncle of two beautiful nieces (one is five, the other is one), nothing is routine. Even the commonplace is astonishing. I remember the first time that each of my nieces learned to stand on her own, and the applause that we gave each one as she took her first steps. The happiness and joy that I felt the first instance I heard my name called still makes my heart melt. The first occasion I was able to make each one smile and laugh felt like winning a gold medal at the Olympics. And, there are no words to express what I felt the very first time each one hugged me with her little arms.

In this "context of children", commonplace actions, activities, and events that may often pass by without special notice, become amazing, extraordinary moments. This is no less applicable to our lives of faith. There is so much that is extraordinary in the ordinariness of our daily lives that Jesus has waiting for us. What is required, however, is a change of perspective. Specifically, the Gospel calls all of us to a "childlike" perspective, and even makes it a requirement of discipleship:

"Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it. Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them," (Mark 10: 14-16).

In calling us to be childlike, the Lord Jesus is not encouraging us to be immature, silly or irresponsible. He is calling us to view our lives with a different set of eyes. He is calling us to recognize that everything depends on him, and that all of us depend completely on him. He is calling us to live with the innocence and simplicity of children, and to live with their spirit of natural joy and amazement. Children approach life with a natural curiosity, and a spirit of wonder and astonishment. How beautiful it is to watch a child discover something for the first time! They marvel at every detail.

(Continues on next page)

THE GOOD NIGHT

WHAT'S SO EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THE ORDINARY?

Childlike simplicity and sincerity of are also gifts and vehicles, which allow God to work in us in extraordinary ways, even in difficult circumstances. How often as children did we simply need a hug, a kiss or someone to wipe away a tear for us to feel consoled? In moments of difficulty or trial, very simple and ordinary gestures, words or actions, can be powerful expressions of faith and God's grace. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" writes



Fr. Abraham Feliciano, SDB
Province Delegate for
Youth Ministry
St. Philip the Apostle Province

"I think of the steadfast faith of those mothers tending their sick children who, though perhaps barely familiar with the articles of the creed, cling to a rosary; or of all the hope poured into a candle lighted in a humble home with a prayer for help from Mary, or in the gaze of tender loved directed to Christ crucified . . . They are the manifestation of a theological life nourished by the working of the Holy Spirit who has been poured into our hearts," (The Joy of the Gospel #125).

As Salesian Family we are convinced that our loving God is present in our daily lives. Therefore, if God is truly present in the ordinariness of daily life, then every moment must be truly extraordinary, because nothing is ordinary about God! When we live every moment with that joy of walking in God's presence, our days, our lives, we are transformed. What's more, we become signs for others of God's love, presence and action in the world. Our Rector Major, Fr. Pascual Chavez writes:

"Union with God means living one's life in God and in his presence . . . Don Bosco gave an evangelical zeal to his whole life, making his whole purpose in life the transmission of faith in God, in living out the theological virtues: with a faith which became a fascinating example for the young, a hope that was expressed in words that were a shining light for them, with a charity that became an expression of love for the most neglected," (Chavez, 2014 Strenna, pg. 7).

As we go through our days and our daily routines, let us actively be open to and embrace the extraordinary that is present in the ordinary that seems so familiar to us. With childlike simplicity, innocence and joy, let us experience the events of daily life with a spirit wonder, awe and enthusiasm. Let us live with a spirit of anticipation and excitement knowing that each day contains something extraordinary for each of us: the presence of God.

COMING SOON

March Leadership Retreat

March 3-6, 2014

Salesian Youth Ministry Seminar

North – Stony Point, NY: April 5, 2014

South – Lutz, FL: April 12, 2014

Six Flags Salesian Youth Day

Jackson, NJ: May 10

Gospel Roads 2014

Gospel Roads I: High School Groups

To Register a group, please contact
rpineiro@salesianym.com

New Orleans, LA: June 14-21

Tampa, FL: June 14-21

Washington, DC: July 5-12

Long Island, NY: July 12-19

Toronto, Canada: August 2-9

Gospel Roads II: Young Adults (18+)

Applications available now at

www.facebook.com/gospelroads

GR 2: Port Chester, NY: June 28-July 5