



BOSCO NEWS

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Saleians 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

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Salesians of Don Bosco
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On the Cover: The Young Team from the 2013 January Leadership Retreat is all smiles at the end of the retreat

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF DON BOSCO ON FACEBOOK!

First, make this banner of Don Bosco your cover photo!

Go to facebook.com/salesianym, find the image, and add it to your page!

Share photos of you and your friends wearing your favorite Don Bosco gear!

Post it to facebook.com/salesianym, too!



Even though it's already the Feast of Don Bosco, you can still pray the Don Bosco eNovena! The daily reflections are available at facebook.com/salesianym.

Praying the eNovena is simple! Begin by reading and reflecting on each day's quote from Don Bosco. Then pray 1 Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, and 1 Glory Be, followed by the Sign of the Cross, and you're done!

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE SALESIAN HOUSE

March Leadership Retreat

March 4-7, 2013 | Stony Point, NY

School CYMs, please register online:
salesianym.com/mlr2013

Gospel Roads Directors Weekend

April 5-7, 2013 | South Orange, NJ

Salesian Youth Ministry Seminar

April 12-14, 2013 | Stony Point, NY

Formerly called the Salesian Spirituality Weekend, this weekend conference will offer formation in the style and method of Don Bosco's approach to youth ministry for adults working with young people.

More information to come!



CELEBRATING DON BOSCO AROUND THE WORLD



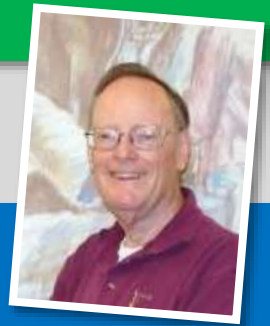
DON BOSCO WEEK AT ARCHBISHOP SHAW

This year Archbishop Shaw High School is celebrating the feast of St. John Bosco in a special way since it is also the 50th anniversary of the school.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be the main celebrant of a bi-school Mass on Monday, January 28, 2013 in the Shaw high school gymnasium. The other school involved and participating is the Academy of Our Lady which is an all-girls archdiocesan high school administered by our Salesian Sisters. Representatives will also be present from our two Salesian parishes in the area: St. Rosalie, Harvey and St. John Bosco, Woodmere.

Brother Jerry Meegan

Youth Minister
Archbishop Shaw HS



Bro. Jerry is currently the Coordinator for Youth Ministry at Archbishop Shaw High School in Marrero, Louisiana, but he's spent time all over the province during his years as a Salesian.

The events will include the Mass followed by a pizza luncheon sponsored by the Shaw Forever alumni group. After lunch the two schools will return to their campuses and Shaw will have an early dismissal. The Archbishop and visiting clergy will be feted to a luncheon with the Salesian community.

How do we prepare for all this. The faculty, staff and students have been following the novena of St. John Bosco over the morning prayer and announcements. Each day Fr. Louis Molinelli, SDB, speaks about an aspect of the Salesian educational system and presence following the example of Don Bosco.

From the coordinator of youth ministry emails have gone out to the faculty focusing in on our activities. Each quarter a class (freshmen, sophomores, etc.) have an afternoon activity period during the last 82 minute block of the day. This means games in the gym or on the fields (and swimming in good weather). Faculty teams supervise these activity days.

The faculty teams are reminded of the rationale for our involvement and scheduling of these days. For the activity days approaching the feast of St. John Bosco the following reminder was emailed:

As we approach the feast of St. John Bosco a reminder of what we are about...

The Rector Major's Strenna for 2013:

Like Don Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness.

Archbishop Shaw's Pastoral Plan:

The preventive system of reason, religion, loving-kindness and active presence is the centerpiece of our educational style.

These two principles govern our quarterly activity periods that are set up to allow the class to get together in an-out-of-the-classroom experience to have fun and bond as a class.

Our job as faculty team members is to facilitate the various activities, and even join in as long as we are also keeping an eye on our students. No students should just be wandering around.

This is our opportunity to be with the students in an environment other than the classroom when we can carry out that part of the Salesian system of the family spirit where the playground is a place when friends meet.

This last week of January is Catholic Schools week. Here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans the annual Catholic Schools Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 31st: the feast of St. John Bosco. The Archbishop will be presiding and representatives of all of the schools are present.

This week is also our EAGLE-MANIA spirit week which is coupled with student games and activities during the school day, especially lunch period. On the last day, Friday afternoon, there is an Eagle-mania rally in the gym in which faculty and students participate in the fun activities.

All in all, this time of January is a looking at our Salesian principles and motivations and seeing our we put them into practice on a daily basis.

DON BOSCO WEEK AT ARCHBISHOP SHAW



Above: **Archbishop Gregory Aymond celebrates the bi-school Mass to kick off Don Bosco Week.**

Below; **Archbishop Aymond delivers the homily to the combined student bodies of Archbishop Shaw and the Academy of Our Lady.**

Right , top: **Competing in the sack race.**

Right, middle: **Students make sure the teachers don't get an advantage in the faculty/student tug-of-war.**

Right, bottom: **Taking a really gross one for the team in the Raw Egg Eating Contest.**



BROOKLYN CELEBRATES DON BOSCO'S FEAST

The spirit of Don Bosco is alive and well in Brooklyn, New York. On Sunday, January 27th, the Bensonhurst Cluster hosted a festival in his honor at St. Mary, Mother of Jesus Parish and School. Over 300 people attended the day: many young children with parents as well as older youth and adults who have come to know and love Don Bosco in the New York area!

The day began in church with a procession that included a banner of Saint John Bosco. This led into a welcome by Joe "Brooklyn" who initiated the chant, "I say Don - you say Bosco," and was followed by a short animated video on Don Bosco's life from EWTN. Then the games began, with carnival activities, arts and crafts, candy bar bingo, food and music for all ages!

The faith and fun were surely one, as older youth helped create the environment of joy and optimism, and as the words of Don Bosco echoed in the gym, "Have all the fun you can, as long as you don't sin!"

Jester Jim, a Youth Minister from Long Island came in, and taught in the old style of Don Bosco, through juggling and dynamic animation, bringing forth the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we are called to use and share with others. His show ended with wonder and awe as he juggled fire! For the rest of the afternoon, youth were fed and were able to turn in tickets for snow cones, cotton candy and little prizes. John Chimento, a JLR Leader donated his music and supplies to make the day fun for all ages!

The Feast of Don Bosco has become an annual celebration in Brooklyn for the past eight years and is one of our most anticipated events of the entire year. Youth from Port Chester, Corpus Christi and Our Lady of the Valley in Orange, NJ came to share in the festivities! During the day, a Don Bosco prayer card was hidden, and the youth had to find him to receive a special prize. Don Bosco messages will continue to be shared and taught -- whether it is through a 6th grade religion class, or through a juggling exercise at the youth group and youth center. It is our hope that this day of fun may help young people know and come to love Don Bosco.

Kenny Wodzanowski
Youth Minister
Bensonhurst YM Cluster

After working for the Salesians, Kenny founded the Bensonhurst Youth Ministry Cluster – a combined youth ministry program among several parishes in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn.. He's also a proud father and husband!



LEARNING FROM DON BOSCO

The moment I first stepped foot into St. John Bosco church, I would have never imagined in a million years the great impact going to a Salesian parish would've had in my life. I look back and seriously wonder how I ended up where I am now. The first time I went to a Salesian event outside Chicago was JLR. It was there where I realized that I wasn't the only crazy person who appreciated and believed in God's love for us not only that but it was in JLR where I began to see why Don Bosco dedicated his entire life for the salvation of souls. Then, only a year later, I found myself on a plane to El Salvador where I found the same Salesian Spirit that I had found not only in JLR but back home in Chicago. I was completely

mesmerized. I found it hard to believe how easily I connected with complete strangers and who by the end of the mission trip felt like family. To think that this was all possible because of the dream one man had about two hundred years ago seems out of this world to me. I thank God every day for the gift that Don Bosco is to the church because Don Bosco's courage to say yes to God's call changed my life. Don Bosco has taught me that through prayer and trust in God anything is possible. I don't think it ever crossed his mind that all the work he did to bring kids closer to God would still be alive today and that he would be helping us get closer to God. It makes me think that every opportunity God gives us to be around teenagers is an opportunity we have to continue to keep Don Bosco's dream going so that others can learn from him and bring them closer to God. Don Bosco has taught me to let go and let God so that He can do great things through us.

Marisol Vazquez

Young Adult
Chicago, IL



Going to a Salesian High School, I was introduced to and learned about Don Bosco starting my freshman year, when I was about 14. I learned about his life, and mission. Although my knowledge of Don Bosco was there, my journey with him didn't actually start until a few years later. My first true encounter with Don Bosco came at the March Leadership retreat in 2006 where I got to truly feel his spirit and his love through the adults that were there to support us teens. The support was always there before, but as a student you don't look to that from your teachers or the staff. But since then, it's been a true joy being around Salesians, whether it is Salesian priests,

Chris Maiolo
Young Adult
New Rochelle, NY

brothers, and sisters, or Salesian lay people, learning from them and having Don Bosco shape my life through them. Not only have I learned many things from Don Bosco, but he has also given me a direction, a life mission. It's because of Don Bosco's influence that I've made it my life's mission to work with young people. Currently I am a volunteer at my church's youth group in Hauppauge, New York, and I am studying to become a high school math teacher. Don Bosco has taught me to be a positive influence on the young people around me, and to be a witness of his love and passion for them. He's taught me to work hard and to do what it takes to bring the youth to Christ and Mary. He's also taught me to go to Mary at all times, because of him she has become a major part of my life over the years. The Salesians have become a major part of my life over the past 9 years. The people whom I've met and the experiences that I've had are all thanks to the work that Don Bosco started. Following in the footsteps of Don Bosco is not easy, but thanks to the support of the Salesians I've met and our mother Mary, I know that the work I do throughout my life will matter. With their help, I will be able to give the youth that feeling that I got when I was in high school, the feeling of Don Bosco's love. It really is true when Don Bosco said, "How consoling it is in the evening to find oneself tired and worn out because the whole day was spent in work for God's glory and the salvation of souls."

SERVING IN DON BOSCO'S SPIRIT

One year ago, I had never heard of the *Salesians*. My calling to become a missionary in Don Bosco's tradition began with a heart like blank slate and a desire to do God's will. After much time in front of the Blessed Eucharist, asking for direction and praying that my creative background could be used for the glory of God's kingdom, I received three separate shreds of providence – clues pointing me toward the East Coast – to work with a group of people who called themselves *Salesians*. I didn't even know how to pronounce the word. But after I figured it out, I hopped on an airplane, took a few trains, and found myself face to face with a vibrant and entirely new world: Youth Ministry in Don Bosco's tradition.

The pedagogy of the Salesian tradition can be distilled down to the four parts of Don Bosco's Oratory, which I've had the privilege of seeing in action on the Province Level of Youth Ministry, as well as on a local-level in a Salesian school setting. I have friends who are utilizing the Oratory technique across the world-- in Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and South Sudan – but Salesian presence extends further than that. There are 133 countries that are currently evangelizing and ministering to youth in a Salesian style. Something about Don Bosco's charism and pedagogy must be working.

I was assigned to assist in high school Campus Ministry at Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon, NJ, where I currently live with Salesian Sisters. Over the past 5 months, I've witnessed the inner-workings of the Oratory, where the school acts as a home that welcomes, a parish that evangelizes, a school that prepares students for their futures, and a playground where friends are found.

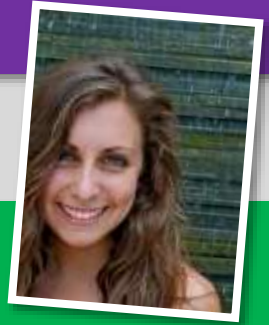
Since the convent I live in is attached to the school, Mary Help of Christians Academy is literally my home. Like the Sisters, I have become a consistent presence on the campus where the students can find me in the common areas after school or during performances or sports competitions. Since I've experienced this way of life, I've recognized the efficacy of accompanying the youth through the ins and outs of the students' days. This method prevents the youth from partaking in negative behavior and shows them that they are loved and cared about by the adults. The Sisters, as well as the lay members of the faculty and staff, work hard to oversee programs and structures to foster a home-environment at the school, through Meet-And-Mingle events for new students, Back-To-School Family Picnics, Open Houses and frequent festivities embedded within the school day.

(continued on the next page)

Rachael Pineiro

Domestic Volunteer
New Jersey

Rachael is serving as a Salesian Domestic Volunteer this year, working at Mary Help of Christians Academy in North Haledon, NJ. She also serves at the Salesian Youth Ministry Office.



SERVING IN DON BOSCO'S SPIRIT

Our Salesian school encourages the participation in academic and artistic clubs, plays, and athletic teams, where the students are able to have fun and build relationships within our Catholic community. We are able to minister to our students through regularly hosting the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharistic, during our monthly school liturgy, and through various school retreats and prayer services. The door to the Campus Ministry Office is always open for the students to come visit, to find someone to laugh with, or someone to confide in, when needed. The texture of this environment is enormously different than my own experience growing up in a public school, and I am touched by the faith opportunities that are available to our girls at Mary Help.

The world of my local community meets the larger world of the Salesian Province during *Leadership Retreats* and *Gospel Roads* service projects. I've had the pleasure of serving on the core team for the October and January Leadership Retreats, thus far. Eight of our girls from Mary Help of Christians Academy attended the fall retreat; they were able to meet and form friendships with Salesian students from Florida, New Orleans, Chicago, Washington D.C. and New York. As a first time member of one of these retreats, I was thoroughly impressed by how effective the Salesian charisma and methodology can work through the span of 5 short – but action packed – days. The program seems to lend itself to success through its inherent structure. Students feel more free to open up in small group discussion when they are surrounded by other young people with whom they have no previous history. A fresh slate of friendships set in the frame of fun, peer-leadership in moral conduct, and holy sacraments creates a unique and unexplainable experience.

After 5 months of learning from and service with the Salesians, I feel thoroughly enriched. My identity and confidence has been more solidly established in my Lord, and I've been challenged and shaped in my formation as a minister to the young. The adults I've served with and the young people I've crossed paths with have impacted and affected my heart for good. It seems that Salesian Youth Ministry works both ways – each side of the coin benefits and encounters Christ.



JANUARY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Tatiana M.

First Time Participant
Our Lady of the Valley Church Youth Group

JLR was without a doubt one of the most memorable events in my life; I will never forget this experience.

Before JLR I constantly felt lost. Although I'm merely 17, I did not know what to do with myself. Sometimes I even felt like God wasn't there for me, as if he didn't want to listen to me anymore. When I first heard people say that JLR was life changing, I thought they were just over exaggerating. It wasn't until the last day of this retreat that I realized it made a huge impact on me. I am proud to say that I am trying my best to improve my relationship with God now because he is always there for me. This retreat truly opened my eyes. I now know that you don't have to do things that are harmful to have fun. You can have fun while doing positive things.

Ever since the retreat, I've been surrounding myself with positive people, and things, that will help me improve. I loved my experience at JLR and I will never forget how much it helped me grow as a person.



WOAH!

That's what automatically comes to mind when I think about JLR. To begin with, I honestly didn't expect it to be as fun as it was. The moment I arrived I was immediately greeted with the Young Team and there aren't enough words to describe how loving and caring they were to us. They were filled with such enthusiasm and that Salesian Spirit, it made me feel right at home. I loved the activities they had set up. I liked the concepts and the symbolism of each one. For example, we played a game where some of our group members had disabilities. It made me appreciate what I have and made me realize what people in the real world have to face. I also, loved the talks that the Young Team members gave. They were so inspirational and I could connect to so many of their stories and life difficulties. I felt like I wasn't alone or the only one who felt a certain way. The Young Team also performed little skits, some were pretty funny while others were quite emotional. My favorite part was the mass on the last day. Father Abe did an excellent job explaining to us that Jesus is Superman. JLR was not only a retreat, but an eye opener. I have always been close to my faith, but JLR gave me a reason why I do things, why I go to Youth Group and why I'm so involved in my parish. It has also increased my faith. JLR has been a tremendous blessing and I'm so happy that I had the chance to go. I thank God and my Parish, Our Lady of the Valley and of course the Salesians.

Jackie R.

First Time Participant
Our Lady of the Valley Church Youth Group

PROPHETS OF LIFE, LOVE, AND JOY!

The March for Life is absolutely one of the most humbling and awe-inspiring experiences I have ever had in life. Seeing tens of thousands of people march to our capitol under one untied cause shows there is strength in numbers, and it gives me hope that my voice will be heard. As a young adult in today's society, I am daunted by how easy it is to stray from the path and to not be heard. Thousands of people are voiceless and impartial throughout their lives, and they do not take action to put an end to any oppression or wrong treatment. I noticed this year was different, in that there were a number of people on the sidewalks going about their daily routines, supporting us from a distance. It showed me that our cause is rapidly growing and we cannot be ignored. As the Don Bosco Prep group was rounding the corner and approaching Capitol Hill, we heard cheers from high above our heads, and one of the students pointed to the top of a building where a group of pro-life activists took time away from their jobs to go out onto the roof and show their support for our cause. During the vigil the night before, I really enjoyed the addition of the group discussions. Hearing stories of young teens enduring similar experiences to mine drastically enforced my pro-life beliefs and ensured me that my struggles were not in vain. One thing that left an impression on me was a particular teenage girl, who took the microphone and explained that she found her faith in the pro life movement through Mother Mary's example.

Robert C.

Ironmen for Life

Don Bosco Prep High School



THE GOOD NIGHT

A recent alum from one of our Salesian high schools shared during her salutatory address that there was never a day during her four years of high school that she would walk past or into the Youth Ministry office of her school and fail to hear laughter and joyful noise. This sense of joy that permeated her four-year Salesian experience, was one of the many treasures she would take with her to college. Is this not a characteristic of Salesian experiences? Do we not consistently notice the "joyful noise" that seems to help us recognize a Salesian environment when we enter it (and, in some cases, even helps us to locate that Salesian environment!)? Is this "joyful noise" just that, noise, or is there something deeper?

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice" (Phil 4:4).

Today, we celebrate the feast of our father and founder, St. John Bosco. Certainly, a just reason for rejoicing, a just reason for making "joyful noise." Yet, this Scripture passage is not simply a justification for the entire Salesian Family to "party hearty" today. Rather, this passage of Sacred Scripture speaks to both the core of our identity as Salesians as well as the very goal of all that St. John Bosco said and did. In his Strenna for 2013 (the Strenna is the Rector Major's annual address in which he announces the theme of the year for the Salesian Family), Fr. Pascual Chavez, SDB (the Rector Major and ninth successor of Don Bosco), invites us all to study Don Bosco's pedagogy (that is, his educational method) as we prepare to celebrate the bicentennial of his birth in 2015. The title of this year's Strenna ("Like Don Bosco the educator, we offer young people the Gospel of joy through a pedagogy of kindness,") is preceded by the passage from Philipians.

Why would Fr. Chavez choose to cite this Scripture passage? Is it because it forms the basis for one of the articles of constitutions of the Salesian of Don Bosco? Might it be because it is part of the New Testament reading usually proclaimed in the Mass of Don Bosco? Or is there something more? That something more lies in Don Bosco's pedagogy, a pedagogy that could be described using Don Bosco's own words contained in his famous *Letter from Rome*: "My only desire is to see you happy both in this world and the next."

Those of us who have the blessing to call ourselves Salesians (and, by that I mean all those who have been formed by and practice the Salesian Preventive System) know very well that joy is an integral part of any Salesian activity, event, or environment. And, this is not accidental. Joy is an essential part of our Salesian spirituality because it arises from the experience of Jesus, the Jesus that we meet in those Salesian activities, events, and environs. As Salesians, we rejoice in the God who created us, the God who guides and accompanies us, the God who strengthens, the God who redeems, and the God who awaits us in eternity.

The challenge for us as sons and daughters of Don Bosco is to be faithful to his pedagogy, but to continue to be joyful while also teaching others to do the same. During moments of doubt, challenge or even tragedy, how do we hold fast to Salesian optimism and joy? When we encounter others who are experiencing such difficulties, how do we proclaim the "Gospel of Joy" to them in such a way that both respects their situation while filling them with hope? In short, how do we help them to "rejoice in the Lord always"? We can only do this if we know and stay close to the Jesus that Don Bosco brought countless young people to. That is the goal of Don Bosco's pedagogy, that is the desired outcome of a Salesian Life well lived, that is the "Gospel of Joy."

As we celebrate the feast of our beloved spiritual father, let us not merely be happy or spirited. Rather, whether we be adolescents, young adults, or adults who are "young at heart," let us be truly joy-filled disciples, committed to living and spreading the Gospel of Joy, especially to the young most in need. In doing so, we will not only remember and celebrate Don Bosco, but we will be continuing the great pedagogy he gave us as his family legacy.

Fr. Abraham Feliciano
Provincial Delegate
for Youth Ministry



After spending 6 years as the Coordinator for Youth Ministry and Director of Faith Formation at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park, MD, Fr. Abe is currently the Province's Delegate for Youth Ministry, based out of the Salesian House in South Orange, NJ.

Learn more about the Rector Major's Strenna for 2013

Read his commentary: <http://goo.gl/J8p0f> | Watch the presentation: <http://goo.gl/RjGlo>