

# NASN



## The North American Salesian Network

### News and Updates Summer 2024

The North American Salesian Network (NASN) is an organization of both lay and religious groups that live the Salesian teachings of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. NASN facilitates the sharing of Salesian resources, educational services, vocational efforts, and a variety of resources, bringing this optimistic, joy-filled spirituality to people throughout the world.

Read on for news and updates from our members.

# From our Members

## Salesians of Don Bosco

### Who Are We?

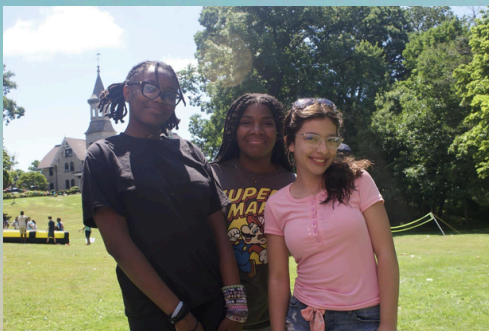
When St. John Bosco, popularly known as Don (Father) Bosco, began his work in 1841 for poor and abandoned boys, he gathered lay men and women and fellow diocesan priests to help him. In time he also invited some of his better boys, now as young men, to stay and help him. Many felt called to the priesthood and others to a consecrated lay state. This led Don Bosco to found the Society of St. Francis de Sales for brothers and priests (Salesian Society) and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian sisters) for the care of girls. Continuing to encourage others to do what they can for his mission to young people, he began the Association of Mary Help of Christians and Salesian Cooperators. He put these groups and all his work under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales, inspired especially by his gentleness, kindness and zeal for the good of others. Today there are 32 groups who belong to the Salesian Family of St. John Bosco, working in a united effort for the good of poor boys and girls, young adults and those most in need.

Learn more: <https://donboscosalesianportal.org>

### What's New?

## Salesians of Don Bosco Summer Apostolates

St. John Bosco developed a model of youth ministry that he called the Oratory. It features a family atmosphere, an educational component, a faith experience and a social and recreational side, succinctly termed home-school-church-playground, all imbued with the Salesian spirit. Many of the works of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Canada and the Eastern USA run summer Oratory-style camps. Sports, crafts, talent shows and outings get the greatest attention. Each program also offers catechetical sessions, celebration of the sacraments and daily prayer. Camp traditions and friendly, caring staffs make the campers feel welcomed and at home. The educational component enters subtly with the building of skills through the recreational activities.



Camp Echo Bay  
Young camp counselors enjoy making friends with each other at Camp Echo Bay in New Rochelle, New York

Photo Credits: Courtesy of Camp Echo Bay's Facebook Page



Camp Mary Help  
Camp Mary Help at Mary Help of Christians Center in Tampa, Florida benefits from its location on East Lake

Photos credits: Photo by Chioma Okoye



Montréal Happy Days  
Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre in Montréal, Canada's Happy Days summer program uses the local parish church of Maria Ausiliatrice for youth-oriented prayer services

Photo credits: Courtesy of Fr. Richard Authier, SDB



# From our Members



## St Francis de Sales Association

### Who Are We?

The Society of the Daughters of Saint Francis de Sales was founded in France in 1872, by Father Henri Chaumont and Caroline Carré de Malberg. Father Chaumont envisioned the association as a school of continuous formation for deepening conversion in view of the apostolate. Today we are called the St Francis de Sales Association. The association is comprised of two branches: the St Francis de Sales Association (lay) and the Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (religious). Our association is international and is for lay women who are living according to the teachings of the Church and desire to be grounded in the Gospel and formed by the teachings of St Francis de Sales. It offers the opportunity to develop life-long spiritual friendships. "Accompaniment" is an important facet. Each Daughter has a companion. Companions accompany one another on their spiritual journey.

[sfdsassociation.org](http://sfdsassociation.org)

### What's New?

**Face-to-Face:** Annually the National Council meets in person. These past few years we have been privileged to hold our meetings at Camp De Sales. Father Ken McKenna's hospitality has been outstanding and gratefully, joyfully appreciated

MemberClicks, a member management software system has been completed along with training of our members on how to use it. This system enhances the efficiency of our sharing of information, planning events, sharing ideas and processing dues along with additional functions. It has alleviated some of the work of our Regionals and Directresses. Recently, with quick efficiency we were able to assist aiding Burkina Faso. We responded to this urgent need at the request of our priest who assists us at the Salesian Center in Paris.



**Evangelization:** Daughters in our various regions have been increasingly active in participating in Diocesan events to let others know about our association.



# From our Members



## The Association of Salesian Cooperators - Canada

### Who Are We?

The Salesian Cooperators are single or married lay men and women, or diocesan clergy, who dedicate themselves to the welfare of young people, and live guided by Don Bosco's Salesian Spirit.

Generally the Salesian Cooperators are affiliated with a local Salesian school, parish and youth center. Some of the Cooperators work directly in Salesian ministries while others serve in their parishes or other ministries. Some Cooperators do not work directly with any particular ministry, but bring the Salesian Spirit to their work place, profession, and family.

The core of the Salesian Cooperators' commitment is to live his or her life as a good Christian and a good Catholic. The Salesian Cooperator embraces a Gospel way of life, sharing in the Church's mission to bring Christ to society, especially the young.

### What's New?



Jill and Joe at home entertaining UTM (University of Toronto Mississauga) students  
Photo credits: Jill Conroy

#### University of Toronto Mississauga Catholic Chaplaincy Newsletter

#### Honorary Grandparents By Magdalena Terlecka

There is a retired couple by the name of Jill and Joe who have become involved in the lives of a few of our students. They are a Catholic couple, working as Salesian Cooperators, and their hope is to create a sense of home for young people,

especially those who are studying abroad and don't have their family close by. Jill, wife of Joe, quoted St. John Bosco, Salesian founder, who said: "You are young and that is reason enough for me to love you". They are really generous with their time and affection, and thus have developed personal relationships with some of our students. They have invited students, and myself, over for dinner; have helped students run errands; attended important ceremonies, and have engaged students in unique opportunities. When I chatting with Jill for this newsletter, she said: "It's not what we do, it's who we are... It's natural for us to engage young people". Pray that others, will see the value in taking care of young people, in whatever way they are able! Pray, too, that there be a bridge between the young and the old, that they may work collaboratively to build the Kingdom of God!



# From our Members

## Visitation Salesian Network

### Who Are We?

The Visitation Salesian Network comprises all four Visitation schools in the United States: Georgetown Visitation; Visitation Academy in St. Louis; Visitation School in Mendota Heights, Minnesota; and Visitation Academy in Brooklyn. The schools work together to celebrate and promote our shared Salesian Spirituality and Visitation charism.



### What's New?

Visitation Salesian Network (VSN) Sponsors Student Pilgrimage to Visitation holy places in France

In June, 29 students and 8 chaperones from Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C., Visitation Academy in Saint Louis, MO, and Visitation School in Mendota Heights, MN, spent a week exploring the roots of Salesian Spirituality at La Sainte Source in Annecy. The Visitation Salesian Network (VSN) sponsored this new experience for youth as one way for lay educators and student leaders of our three Visitation school communities in the United States to carry the charism forward into the future.

The first afternoon was spent working with the Visitation Sisters on their farm and praying Vespers alongside them. After Sunday Mass, the Sisters invited us into the Parlor to see their Vow Book which contained the handwritten vows of the members of their community back to Saint Jane de Chantal.



Other important Visitation sites included Les Allinges, where St. Francis de Sales preached to Calvinists in the Chablais; Thoren, Francis' childhood home where he had a vision of Jane de Chantal and the other women who would help found the Visitation order; the Hermitage of Saint Germaine in Talloires, where Francis had hoped to retire; and the Galerie House, the location of the very first Visitation community.

We also took a day trip to Paray-le-Monial and celebrated the 350th Jubilee Year of the Sacred Heart. We attended Mass for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and were warmly welcomed into the Sisters' courtyard to learn more about Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque from the whole community. After a wonderful encounter, the Sisters brought out ice cream treats to share!

Students spent their days immersing themselves in Salesian Spirituality and we had a lot of fun getting to know new VISTERS (fond term for students from the other Visitation schools). We tasted lots of gelato, went to the beach to swim, and went paddle boating on Lake Annecy. This amazing trip leaves our students well-prepared to share Salesian Spirituality with their respective school communities in new ways this year.



# From our Members

## The Second Federation of the Visitation of Holy Mary

### What's New?

#### Second Federation Assembly

The Second Federation of the Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary (VHM) gathered at the end of June at the Georgetown Monastery for their Federation Assembly. In God's providence, this timing matched with the fact the Georgetown Monastery and School celebrated the 225th anniversary of their Founding in 1799.

Significantly, the Sisters chose a theme for their gathering which marks this moment and the coming years: Legacy: Being and Becoming. The following statements encapsulate their intention and prayer posture in 2024 and the years that follow.



Newly elected leadership and advisors of the Second Federation of the Visitation of Holy Mary, USA held in Georgetown late June 2024

Fr. Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS, Sr. Mary Grace McCormack, Sr. Karen Mohan (President), Sr. Mary Berchmans Hannan, Sr. Anne Francis, Sr. Susan Marie Kasprzak (past president), Sr. Brenda Lisenby, Sr. Marguerite Marie, Fr. Aldino Kiesel, OSFS

From its beginning in 1610, the legacy of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary has been to live Jesus in his humility before God and in his gentleness toward all others, doing so in both community and ministry.

Every monastery and each sister of the Second Federation is dedicated to being generously and creatively faithful to that legacy today, doing so in the concrete circumstances that the divine good pleasure has permitted in both our communities and ministries.

In the years ahead of us, we will continue to embrace with generosity of heart and Salesian indifference whatever will be the shape and scope of our becoming, trusting lovingly in the care and goodness of Providence.

In the spirit of our legacy, we wish to imitate Mary who, after giving her great-hearted "Fiat" to let JESUS LIVE in her, set out to support her cousin, Elizabeth, and to share with her the promises of God.

We will "set out " and creatively respond to the Holy Spirit's invitation to pass on our legacy to those who follow us.



# From our Members

## Embraced by God

### Who Are We?



Embraced by God, also known as Desales Resources & Ministries, is built around providing resources for joyful living inspired by Saints Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal. We operate as a publisher, an online bookstore, and a lending library. Additionally, we host Salesian gatherings and offer guidance and assistance to anyone looking to explore the hope-filled world of Salesian spirituality.

### What's New?

#### Brother Mickey McGrath's 2024 Christmas Card

**\$10.00**



Brother Mickey McGrath's 2024 Christmas Card

Wise Men And Wise Woman

Inside Reads:  
May wisdom and joy find a home in your heart this Christmas and guide you as you travel the paths that lead to Christ!

Includes: 10 cards and envelopes

### Special Summer Sale Item



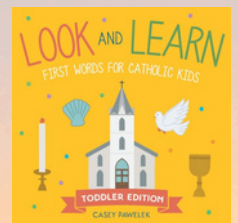
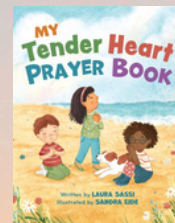
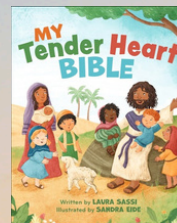
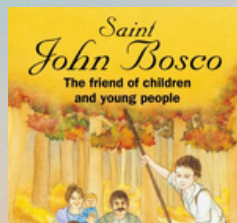
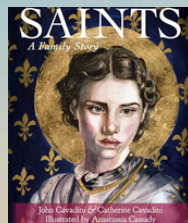
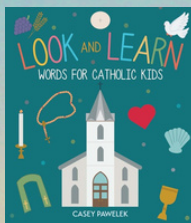
#### The EBG Booklet Bundle

~~\$15.00~~  
**\$12.00**

This collection includes 9 of our most popular booklets and a bonus pocket token. The booklets included are:

- Come to Me
- Really Present? Jesus in the Eucharist
- Anxiety Therapy for Followers of Jesus
- Golden Counsels of Saint Francis de Sales
- Gentle & Humble: Living Jesus with St. Francis de Sales
- Spiritual Light from St. Jane de Chantal
- Transforming Violence to Gentleness with St. Francis de Sales
- Anxiety Relief with St. Francis de Sales
- Gentle Gifts: Sts. Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal
- BONUS - St. Francis de Sales Pocket Token

### New Books for August 2024



Visit [www.embracedbygod.org](http://www.embracedbygod.org) to shop now!



# From our Members

## Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales

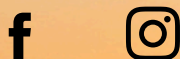
### Who Are We?

The Oblate Sisters of Saint Francis de Sales is an international congregation founded in Troyes, France by Blessed Louis Brisson and Saint Leonie Frances de Sales Aviat. The Oblate Sisters respond to Christ's universal call to holiness by giving themselves totally to Him, freely and through love under the direction of Saint Francis de Sales. Salesian spirituality leads the sister to a life of humility before God and gentleness towards the neighbor.

### What's New?

School is out, students have departed and now there is time for other activities. This summer Sisters participated in the Salesian Leadership Conference for the youth at Camp de Sales in Michigan. Youth from many Salesian schools joined together to participate in a week fostering and developing their Spirituality under the lens of St. Francis de Sales. As leaders, the youth are called to model this spirituality within their communities. These student leaders were exposed to many forms of prayer, how to communicate with their peers, and how to daily "Live Jesus". We had the opportunity to speak with them about the importance of relationships and how these friendships are vital to our spiritual development. These healthy relationships will grow into Spiritual Friendships to draw each other closer to God. Holy Friendships are modeled by St. Francis de Sales, our guide and strength. God wants us to have this Spiritual Friendship with him. In this friendship, we remain one in God and with God.

Joining with so many others who live and model the spirit of St. Francis de Sales daily, we came back renewed and refreshed to Live Jesus. This renewal continued as we made a pilgrimage to France with some of our faculty and dear friends. We spent the first days of this pilgrimage journeying in the footsteps of St. Francis de Sales at Annecy. Our journey concluded in Paris where St. Francis de Sales spent many years studying and developing his spiritual life. May these holy times of renewal allow us to continue living and spreading this Salesian spirit as we strive to "Live Jesus" each day.





# From our Members

## The DeSales Secular Institute

### Who Are We?

First, secular institutes are a form of consecrated life in the Catholic Church, and as such, members take vows of celibate chastity, poverty and obedience for life. The mission entrusted to us by the Church is to sanctify ourselves and the world we live in, wherever God puts us. We do not live in convents, but in the secular world while serving the Lord totally both in service to the Church and our secular communities. The DeSales Secular Institute was founded by Franz Reisinger, OSFS in Vienna, Austria during WWII. We have members in Austria, Germany, Namibia, United States, Brazil and Ecuador. Learn more about us on our website: [desalessecularinstitute.com](http://desalessecularinstitute.com)

### What's New?

#### Salesian Spirit was present at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress

By Kathleen Tierney  
DeSales Secular Institute

“Bloom where you are planted” is the very familiar motto given to us by St. Francis de Sales. It was a blessing to be present at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17–21, where Catholics of all vocations and walks of life gathered in Indianapolis to adore, praise and grow deeper in their love and understanding of the Eucharistic mystery.

As part of the US Conference of Secular Institutes vocations committee, I was able to share the beauty of the vocation of secular institutes through my experience as a member of the DeSales Secular Institute. We attracted many people to our booth at the expo hall with Embraced by God’s “Droplets” featuring beautiful imagery on one side of a business size card and inspirational quotes from St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantel on the flip side. People were quick to snatch up the pocket booklets “Anxiety Relief” and “Transforming Violence to Gentleness” as well as the late Fr. John Graden’s “Really Present? Jesus in the Eucharist” booklet. It was a joy to educate people on how members of our secular institute can consecrate our lives to the Lord wherever he places us in the secular world, in order to bring people back to Christ, and to the Eucharist.

It was especially meaningful for me since it took place in my hometown of Indianapolis and my parish church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, became the perpetual adoration chapel throughout the duration of the Congress. During my volunteer shift there in the late afternoon and early evening, it was standing room only. It was particularly moving to see small children take roses up to the foot of the monstrance during the Family Adoration Hour, and then kneel before the Lord in loving, childlike adoration. To see so many walks of life represented, priests, bishops, religious, lay people, married couples, children, parents with babies, people from other countries, was truly a blessing of visible unity.



It was standing room only at the perpetual adoration chapel, the cathedral-size St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, directly across the street from the Indiana Convention Center which hosted the 10th National Eucharistic Congress



It was as if nobody was a stranger to anyone. Here a religious sister helps out a mother of twins while they wait in the confession line.





# NASN

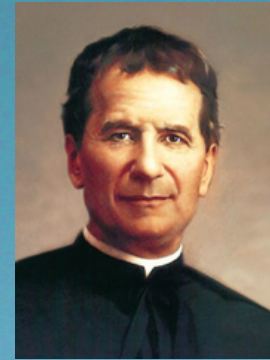
The North American Salesian Network  
Summer 2024



[Click here to read more about St. Francis de Sales](#)



[Click here to read more about St. Jane de Chantal](#)



[Click here to read more about other Salesian Saints](#)



[Click here to read more about Salesian Spirituality](#)



[Click here for a list of Salesian Quotes and Themes](#)

*To learn more about the North American Salesian Network and its members;*

*please visit [www.SalesianNetwork.org](http://www.SalesianNetwork.org)*