

Canada and Eastern USA



Salesian Family Snippets



News of the Salesian Family Near and Far

► **ONE BODY IN CHRIST**

A collaboration spearheaded by
Salesian Family in Surrey.

LIVE JESUS

We live in the age of the Spirit where the Risen Lord
continues to be present with us and through us.

MANAGING YOUR ECOSYSTEM

The "mighty" oak tree is the single most
important tree to have and protect.





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IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 2: Bl. Augustus Czaratoryski

Aug. 4: FMA Renewal of Professions

Aug. 5: 150th anniversary of the Founding of the FMA
FMA First and Perpetual Professions, Hawthorne, NJ

Aug. 11-14: Interamerica SSCC Regional
Elective Congress, Panama

Aug. 15: Solemnity of the Assumption
SDB Profession Renewals, Stony Point, NY

Aug. 19: Dedication of the New St. Joseph Chapel,
Mary Help of Christians Academy, North Haledon, NJ

Aug. 25: Bl. Maria Troncatti, FMA

Aug. 26: Bl. Zephyrinus Namuncurá

Visit <https://salesians.org/> to download and view this current issue and
<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/sf-snippets-archives/>
to download and view previous ones, including this issue at a later date.

Original photo of Fr. George Atok, SDB, included on cover by Gezelle Chavez and Noli Narag
Photos on "In This Issue" page courtesy of Canva Pro



*Fr. George Atok, SDB, and some of 158 youth-participants of the First Altar Servers Eucharistic Conference from five parishes: St. Matthew's, Immaculate Conception (Delta), Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Bernadette and Precious Blood
Photo by Geezelle Chavez and Noli Narag*

One Body in Christ *Salesian Family Spearheads Eucharistic Renewal Event*

BY GEEZELLE CHAVEZ, OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL ALTAR SERVERS LEADER

On June 16, 2022, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the Catholic Bishops of Canada kicked off a three-year renewal of Eucharistic devotion and belief. In response to this call, the Salesian Family groups in Surrey, British Columbia spearheaded a youthful and family-centered approach to this celebration by drawing together the Catholic parishes and schools in the area for an encounter of Eucharistic renewal with young altar servers and their parents at the heart of the celebration.

The day was a great success, and gave young altar servers an opportunity to experience Christ in the Eucharist and recognize their role in serving Christ at the altar. The organizing team of the conference is looking forward to continuing this conference for many years to come, further encouraging more altar servers to grow in love for the Eucharist and look into pursuing a religious vocation. Through this collaborative project, the Salesian Family in the Surrey area (SDBs, FMAs, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, and past pupils) fostered Don Bosco's devotion to the Eucharist as an ecclesial family united in serving the local Church.

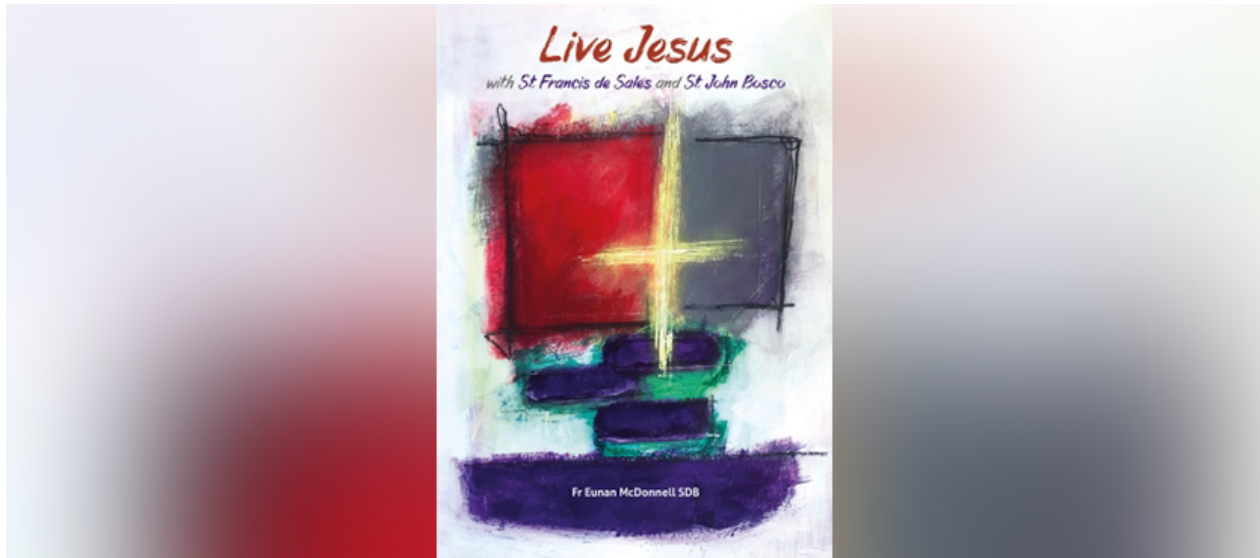
Geezelle Chavez is an altar servers© leader at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Surrey, BC. The program described here is spearheaded by SDBs, FMAs, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, and past pupils.



*Sr. Hae-Jin Lim, FMA, talks on vocations and the Holy Eucharist to the high school and university levels altar servers
Photo by Geezelle Chavez and Noli Narag*



In, With, and For the Church



*Live Jesus with St. Francis de Sales and St. John Bosco cover
Photo courtesy of www.infoans.org*

Live Jesus *with St. Francis de Sales and St. John Bosco*

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON WWW.INFOANS.ORG ON 07/06/2022

As we celebrate the 400th anniversary of St Francis de Sales, it is timely to ask the question: *Why did St John Bosco call us the Society of St Francis de Sales?* In his book, *Live Jesus*, Fr. Eunan McDonnell, SDB, Provincial of St Patrick's Province, Ireland, explores the direct and indirect influences of St Francis de Sales on St John Bosco. However, he moves beyond this to trace the spiritual affinity that exists between these two great saints. This spiritual affinity can be summed up in the Salesian dictum: *Live Jesus!* This naturally provokes the question: is there a Salesian way of living the Gospel?

Looking at how both of these saints 'live Jesus,' we can conclude that Jesus gentle and humble of heart lives and loves through them. They become a new humanity where Jesus can re-live his mystery. The hope is that through exploring something of this mystery, we might learn to respond to the mystery of God.

We live in the age of the Spirit where the Risen Lord continues to be present with us and through us. In particular, it is the Matthean Jesus, meek and humble of heart (Mt. 11:29) who lives

in the lives of our two saints and whom we are called to imitate. It is this gentleness and loving kindness that is the hallmark of the Salesian charism because 'the Spirit of God is the spirit of gentleness.' The author explores in depth these double attributes of Salesian gentleness and loving kindness. As the study unfolds, it becomes evident that St Francis de Sales provides us with a theological and spiritual backdrop that helps us to make sense of Don Bosco's ecstasy of action. Behind every spirituality, there is an operative image of God. In Salesian spirituality, the immense activity of both of our saints reflects the passion of God who is intimately and actively involved with all of creation. We are called, like them, to share in God's mission in our world.

However, it also becomes clear that such immense activity emerges from hearts that are on fire with the love of God. Love brings us out of ourselves in order to become a gift to God and others. This love is expressed affectively through prayer and effectively through service. It is by maintaining

this Salesian balance of prayer and service that we learn 'to belong to God in the midst of so much busyness.' Swept up in God's desire to save everyone, our two saints live this divine urgency for salvation. This theme of salvation becomes the hinge of the book where we are invited to re-visit the meaning of salvation for the young, and indeed for our world, today.

The book operates at different levels:

- 1) Its initial goal is to trace the direct and indirect influences of St Francis de Sales on St John Bosco;
- 2) It proceeds, then, to explore the spiritual affinity between the two saints which consists in their living Jesus;
- 3) Although each of them lives Jesus in his own way, nevertheless, there is a bond of the Spirit which attests to a particularly Salesian way of living the Gospel. This brings us to the final goal of the book: Reflecting on their docility and fidelity to the Holy Spirit, it challenges us to examine our own lives and ask: "How are we being called to live the Gospel in a Salesian way so that Jesus may live in us?"

The book contains 367 pages and may be acquired by sending an email to donboscofoundation@sdb.org.mt.

Very First FMAs of Mornese: ***Sr. Catherine Mazzarello, Pt. 1***

COMPILED BY SR. JUDITH SUPRYS, FMA

Sr. Catherine Mazzarello was born in Mornese on May 30, 1834. She died in Alassio on May 14, 1877, after about five and a half years of religion. She was one of the eleven first FMAs to make their profession in the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians on August 5, 1872.

Early Days

In the early days of St. Mary Mazzarello's workroom at Mardi Gras time, Mary wanted to provide the girls with a safe environment in which to enjoy the festivities. Fr. Pestarino approved her plan and invited Catherine Mazzarello, who had a good little concertina at home, to learn to play it and then take it to the workroom in order to give the girls a little music. Catherine proved willing. She was very fond of Mary and Petronilla and would have joined them in the workroom had



*Sr. Janna San Juan, FMA, holds a piglet for camper in Louisiana at Academy of Our Lady's annual summer camp
Photo by Salesian Sisters*

she not been committed to caring for her elderly, needy father. As she could not join them she helped them in a thousand ways even providing fresh bread and wine for free at least once a week. She also used to give her services whenever she could.

Later on, when Mary had started the Sunday festive Oratory, coming out of church Mary, Petronilla, and the girls would make their way to the chapel of Saint Sylvester, a good fifteen minutes distant. They walked in groups but not too far apart. Catherine Mazzarello, who was well liked by the girls, often went with Mary and Petronilla.

When Mardi Gras time came around again, to the great delight of the girls, Mary rented a barrel organ which anyone could play by turning the crank. This was to the great satisfaction of Catherine Mazzarello, because anyone could replace her in playing it, leaving her free to help with the cooking or maintaining order.

Casa Immacolata

In October of 1867 some of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (the pious group that Mary Mazzarello belonged to) moved to Casa Immacolata (a house built by Father Pestarino with his own funds and contributions

from the Daughters of Mary Immaculate). The new occupants of the Casa Immacolata were Mary and Petronilla Mazzarello, Joan Ferrettino, and Teresa Pampuro. The celebrated concertina player, Catherine Mazzarello, would gladly have joined them and never stopped saying how she envied them. Unable to do this she generously increased the amount of fresh bread and good wine she sent once or twice a week to the workroom. She did this in agreement with her brother who was also very generous and wanted to do all the good he could.

Their father was very old and unable to keep a pace of the charities of his son and daughter. He often said, "What is happening! We used to have a lot more grain and wine! Now everything is diminishing. How is it? I am sorry for you two. I cannot understand it." The two smiled and said, "Don't worry, father, it goes to a safe place; and as long as you live, you will never miss anything. Do not worry about us. We have more than enough of everything and are quite happy with the way things are going."



*Logo for the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
Courtesy of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*

Daughter of Mary Help of Christians

After Catherine's father died, she soon joined Mary Mazzarello to follow the common life with her and with some Daughters of the Immaculate Conception. It was at that time that, no longer being able to dispose of family things, she knew well how to share with the poor the already measured ration of food which was given for the necessary sustenance. She made vestition and profession with the first group of FMA on August 5, 1872.

Primary source of reference: CENNI BIOGRAFICI DELLE FIGLIE DI MARIA AUSILIATRICE defunte nel 1° decennio dell'Istituto (1872-1882), pgs 12-13; secondary: Chronicles of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, edited by Sr. Giselda Capetti, FMA, volume 2, p. 120



In the Salesian Family Know



*Aerial view of Echo Bay and the Salesian Provincial Center in New Rochelle, NY
Photo by Salesian High School*

Managing Your Ecosystem *Laudato Si' Action Platform*

BY BILL AIELLO '72, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF
ADVANCEMENT, SALESIAN HIGH SCHOOL,
NEW ROCHELLE, NY

While we concentrate on the basics of stemming the growing danger of climate change with recycling, eliminating single use plastics, and installing solar panels, it is easy to overlook our respective properties in terms of landscaping. What we plant and what we leave in and on the ground is a major contributor to sustaining a healthy ecosystem. It is imperative to pay attention and manage the direction of our landscapers in all aspects what services are provided on site.

What We Plant

There are perennial plants native to each geographical region of the country. Native plants, once established, require less attention and less water than your garden variety annual plants purchased in flats. When native plants in a garden bloom, they are just as nice to look at as non-native varieties that provide no benefit to birds, bees, butterflies, and other small creatures that sustain the soil.

A non-native plant can realistically be compared to “junk food.” These non-natives look nice, like a nice green lawn, but neither do anything for the ecology of your property. In addition, we see the introduction of non-native invasive plants. Two simple examples are English Ivy and bamboo plants. Invasive plants cause damage above and below the surface.

What We Leave Behind

We seem obsessed with blowing leaves off the ground which is exactly what we shouldn't do in many cases. Fallen leaves from the right type of tree provide tremendous support for the ecology of your property. The "mighty" oak tree is the single most important tree to have and protect. Its leaves fall slowly and provide countless nutrients for the creatures below them. Conversely, a non-native and invasive Norway maple with its beautiful yellow leaves causes damage. The tree blooms early and the leaves fall too late to help the environment.

What Can We Do?

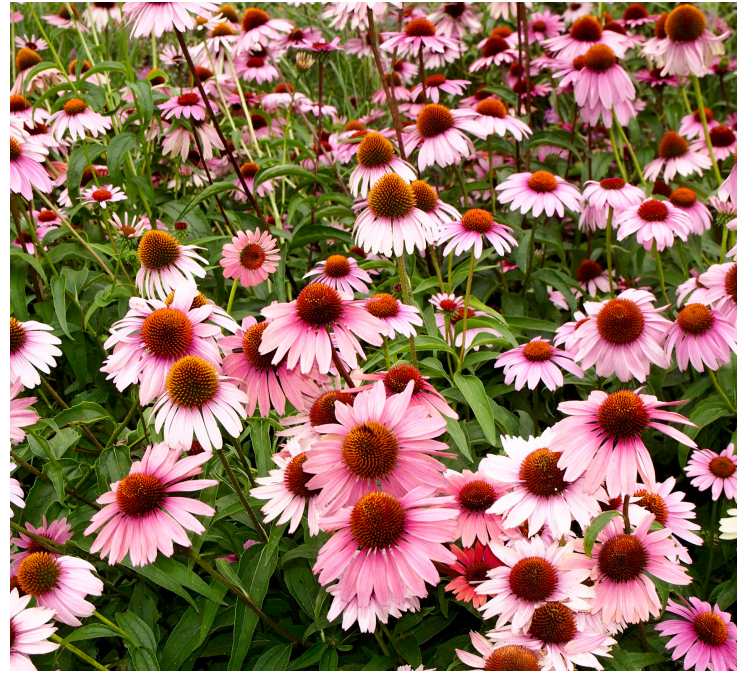
Encourage a property manager or other staffer to become knowledgeable about what works with the regional geography. Most landscapers take the easy way which is not necessarily the right way to take care of the property in your charge. The landscaper must be managed and directed to follow your guidelines. Simple things like blowing leaves into a wooded or little used area, planting native perennials, eliminating spraying of chemicals and pesticides and never planting a non-native tree, are good starts to managing the relationship with your landscaper.

Start Small

Converting your mindset and that of others is a large undertaking. Look for help. The internet is a very useful tool for researching native plants that fit your regional geography. Here in New Rochelle we selected three statues to begin building native plant gardens, also called "pollinator pathways." We received two gifts from an anonymous alum and his wife for two of the gardens, and the third from the National Honor Society members who ran a dress-down day fundraiser.

Be Careful What You Buy and Where You Buy

Once again, using the internet, research your community resources and look for native plant centers. Beware of your



Purple coneflowers, scientifically known as "Echinacea Purpurea"
Photo courtesy of Canva Pro

local garden center that labels plants as native. If you see the words "hybrid" or "cultivar" these plants are not truly native and the plant's genetics (that's right—like we humans, plants have genetics) are compromised. Here in New Rochelle, our new statue gardens' plants were grown from seed, thus preserving the genetic makeup vs. using cuttings. Look for the Latin species name along with plant name.

Make It Fun

Gardening should be fun. Don't make it a chore. Not all native plant pollinator pathway gardens have to have 100 percent native plants. If a plant exists and is not invasive, leave it alone. I don't advocate removing anything unless it is invasive and doing harm. Lastly, do not be thrown by names. Many native plants end in the word "weed." Milkweed, ironweed, thimbleweed and sneezeweed are but a few. Look past the name and enjoy how you will be improving the earth on which we stand. Your new gardens will look wild and take time to mature as your plants go in seasonally. My personal favorites are the black-eyed susan, coneflower, and goldenrod. Enjoy and have fun!

Bill Aiello '72 is the associate director of advancement at Salesian High School in New Rochelle, NY. You can contact him at waiello@salesianhigh.org.

Salesian Family Happenings
150th Anniversary of the Founding of the FMA



*Poster commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of the FMA
Click [here](#) or on the image above to access the novena
Designed by Julia St. Clair*

Please pray on the following days and throughout August for these women as they mark their monumental moments as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Tuesday, August 2 | Entrance into the Novitiate

Natalie Doummar
Jazmin Rangel
Kaitlin Trokan

Thursday, August 4 | Renewal of Vows

Sr. Molly Heine (biennials)
Sr. Rachel Lauritsen (fourth year)
Sr. Boram Lee
Sr. Marie Fe Tansio
Sr. Janna San Juan (third year)
Sr. Natasha Roig (second year)
Sr. Anne Weis

Friday, August 5 | First Professions

Sr. Nicole Daly
Sr. Kathleen Deighan
Sr. Amy Nyugen

Perpetual Professions

Sr. April Cabaccang
Sr. Kathryn Flanagan
Sr. April Hoffman

SDB Professions

Please pray on the following days and throughout the month for these men as they mark their monumental moments as Salesians of Don Bosco.

Saturday, July 30 | Renewal of Vows

Br. Reagan Ledet

Monday, August 15 | Entrance into the Novitiate

John Taylor
Pascal Mukuye

Monday, August 15 | Renewal of Professions

Br. John Castonguay
Br. Paul Hotovy
Br. Francis Nguyen
Br. Kevin White



(from left to right) Br. Paul Hotovy and Br. Francis Nguyen during their First Professions last year
Photo by Salesian Youth Ministry



Jubilee 2025 logo
Courtesy of Vatican Media

Jubilee 2025

An announcement has been made for our next Jubilee Year, which will be in 2025. It will be an ordinary Jubilee Year, and its theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." The next World Meeting of Families will take place in Rome that year as part of the Jubilee celebration.



Save the Date for the Salesian Family Festival

Salesian Family Festival
Out of Darkness...

Save the dates!

Oratory Fest: May 25, 2023
Family Festival: May 26-28, 2023
Marian Shrine, Stony Point, NY

*Promotional poster for the Salesian Family Festival
Designed by Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA*



"Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God."

- St. Francis de Sales



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