

Canada and Eastern USA



# Salesian Family Snippets



*News of the Salesian Family Near and Far*







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### IMPORTANT DATES

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**Jan. 1:** Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

**Jan. 3-4:** St. John Bosco's Salesian Family History and Animation Course, Pt. II (Orange, NJ, and Online)

**Jan. 8:** Bl. Titus Zeman, SDB

**Jan. 15:** Bl. Louis Variara, SDB

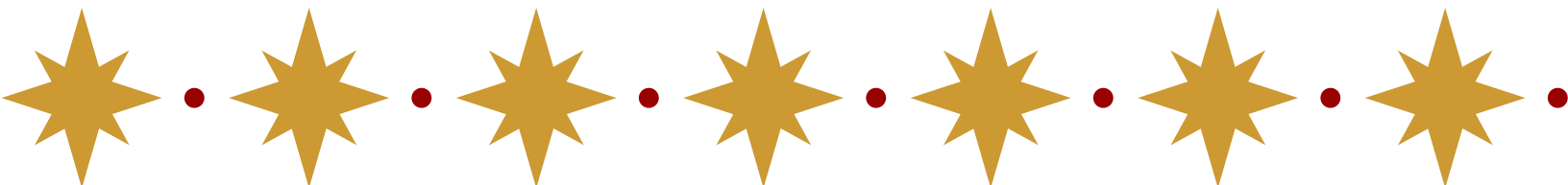
**Jan. 16-19:** Salesian Family (SF) Spirituality Days

**Jan. 22 (23 in USA):** Bl. Laura Vicuña Don Bosco Novena begins  
Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children (USA)

**Jan. 24:** St. Francis de Sales

**Jan. 30:** Bl. Bronislaus Markiewicz, SDB

**Jan. 31:** St. John Bosco



Have an article you'd like featured in *Salesian Family Snippets*? Send it to us!

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Fr. Stefano Martoglio, SDB  
Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

## What a Gift Time Is!

The beginning of the new year is illuminated in our liturgy by the ancient formula with which the Israelite priests blessed the people: *“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He let His face shine upon you and show you His mercy. May He turn His countenance toward you and give you His peace.”*

FR. STEFANO MARTOGLIO, SDB

Dear friends and readers of Salesian media, we’re at the beginning of a new year. Let’s give each other our best wishes for the time that will be, for the time ahead of us, because time is the gift that contains all the others as our lives unfold.

So let’s amplify this wish with what will illuminate it. Let’s give our attention to Don Bosco who, when he arrived at the seminary of Chieri, fixed his thoughts on the sundial that still appears on the courtyard wall, and said: “On a sundial I read the following verse: *Afflictis lentae, celeres gaudentibus horae*. [Time will fly, if you are cheerful; it will drag on, if you are not.] ‘That’s it!’ I said to my friend, ‘There is our program. Let’s always be of good cheer and time will pass quickly.’” (*Biographical Memoirs*, I, 279).

The first wish we exchange at the beginning of this new year is to live this advice in the way that Don Bosco would urge us: Live well, live serenely, transmit serenity to those around you, and time will have another meaning! Every moment of time is a treasure; but it’s a treasure that passes quickly. Don Bosco always loved to comment: “The three enemies of man are: Death, which overtakes him by surprise; Time, which keeps slipping by; the Devil, who seeks to ensnare him.” (*Biographical Memoirs*, V, 606).

“Remember that being happy isn’t having a sky without storms, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments,” recommends an ancient saying. “Being happy

isn’t just celebrating successes, but learning lessons from failures. To be happy is to recognize that life is worth living, despite all the challenges, misunderstandings, and periods of crisis. It’s thanking God every morning for the miracle of life.”



A wise man kept in his study a huge pendulum clock that at every hour sounded solemnly and slowly, but also with a great rumble.

“But doesn’t that bother you?” asked a student.

“No,” replied the wise man. “Because at every hour I have to ask myself: what have I done with the hour that’s just passed?”

Time is the only non-renewable resource. It wears out at an incredible speed. We know that we won’t get a second chance. So all the good we can do, all the love, goodness, and kindness of which we are capable, we must give now because we won’t return to this earth ever again. With a perennial veil of remorse in our hearts, we know that Someone will ask us, “What have you done with all that time I gave you?”



Mosaic of Jesus  
Courtesy of PublicDomainPictures from pixabay

### Our Hope Has a Name: Jesus

In the new time that we've just begun, the dates and numbers on the calendar are signs agreed upon, symbols and numbers invented to measure time. Very little has changed in the transition from the old year to the new year, yet the perception of a year coming to an end always makes us take stock. How much have we loved? How much have we lost? How much better have we become, or how much worse have we become? Time that passes never leaves us the same.

The liturgy has its own way of making us take stock as the new year dawns. It does so through the opening words of John's Gospel—words that may seem difficult but that actually reflect the depth of life: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." In the depths of each of our lives resounds a Word greater than we are. It's the reason why we exist, why the world exists, why everything exists. This Word, this **Verbum**, is God himself; he is the Son, he is Jesus. The Name given to the reason why we were made is "Jesus."

He's the true reason why everything exists; in Him we can understand everything that exists. We shouldn't judge our life by comparing it with history, with its events and its mentality. Our life can't be judged by looking at ourselves and our experience alone. Our life is comprehensible only if we draw it close to Jesus.

He is the true reason why everything exists, and it is in Him that we can understand everything that exists.

In Him everything makes sense and takes on a meaning, even those things that happened to us that were contradictory and unjust. It's by looking at Jesus that we understand things about ourselves. A psalm says this well when it states, "In your light we see light."

This is the way of seeing Time according to God's Heart. Our wish for each other and for ourselves is to live this new time in this way.



The new year will bring with it important events and news for each of us, for the Salesian Family, for our Congregation—everything within the gift of the Jubilee Year that we're celebrating in the Church.

May we let ourselves be carried away in the spirit of the Jubilee by that Hope which is God's presence in our lives.

January, the first month of this new year, is dotted with Salesian feasts that lead up to the feast of Don Bosco. We thank God for this delicate touch of the Lord as we begin the new year. Therefore, let's give the final word to Don Bosco, and let's set this maxim of his firmly in our lives so that it may shape 2025 for us: *My children, treasure time, and time will preserve you for eternity.*





*The magi follow the Christmas star.  
Courtesy of Angeleses from pixabay*

## Look Up, Set Out, and Give Learning from Mary and the Magi

**ADAPTED FROM KATE FOWLER'S ARTICLE PUBLISHED 12/19/2019:  
THE BLOG EDITOR FOR THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE CENTER.**

We turn to Mary because she is an expert at faithful waiting that leads to Christ. So I invite you to spend time with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Reread the accounts of the Annunciation and Visitation in Scripture. Ask her for help waiting—faithfully, hopefully, humbly. And invite her to accompany, guide, and prepare you to receive Christ. She always leads others to her Son.

In addition to Mary's example, the magi can teach us what it means to wait in hopeful anticipation: **to look up and see the star, set out, and give freely.**

The magi, though Gentiles, were not complacent but so observant that they could recognize God's sign: the star. As Pope Francis said, "The magi were not content with just getting by, with keeping afloat. They understood that to live truly, we need a lofty goal and to keep looking up."

What keeps us in this Jubilee Year from looking up and seeing the star? Are we busy scrolling through our social media feeds, binge-watching the latest Netflix series, working late at the office, or anxious about the future? Are we paralyzed by grief, bitterness, anger, or fear?

The magi were vigilant, ready to go when the time came. And their hearts were receptive, disposed to the signs of the times.

Like Mary, they, too, set out on a journey that would lead them to Christ himself. This journey required effort, planning, and sacrifice. They looked up, set out, and finally gave, bearing costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They met the generosity of God by reciprocating generosity. Pope Francis also noted, "To give freely, for the Lord's sake, without expecting anything in return: this is the sure sign that we have found Jesus."



I invite you to draw close to Mary and look to the magi's example. In looking for Christ, encountering him, and serving others, we find Christ born also in our hearts. As the Catechism says, "When Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled" (CCC526).





# Salesian Family Events



*Salesian Family Formation Opportunity*

**St. John Bosco's Salesian Family History & Animation**  
A three-part hybrid series 2024-2025

- Venue: OLV Orange NJ
- 8:30am - 4:30pm
- Part I: History  
FINISHED! RECORDINGS SOON ONLINE!  
● Oct 26 & 27, 2024
- Part II: Animation *Date Change!*  
● Jan. 3 & 4, 2025

*For details & to register: click here*

Next Session: March 2025



Promotional image for the Salesian Family Course  
Courtesy of Sr. Denise Sickinger, FMA

## Salesian Family Course Animation of the Salesian Family

**When:** January 3-4, 2025

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** Orange, NJ, and online

**Note:** If you can only participate in one day of the two-day course, we encourage you to register. All are welcomed!

**Register now!**



## Learn About and Prepare for the SFSDs 2025

**When:** January 16-19, 2025

**Place:** Turin, Italy, and online

### Goals of the 2025 Salesian Family Spirituality Days (SFSDs)

The primary purpose of the Days is to gain a deeper appreciation of the Rector Major's Strenna for this new year ("Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people"). The Strenna proposes that we experience this pilgrimage to Christ Jesus, the hope who does not disappoint, proposed by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year and that we walk together with young people with the apostolic passion of Don Bosco; the passion that was characteristic of the first missionary expedition, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2025, and which has continued to characterize all the expeditions of his

*Strenna 2025* del Vicario del Rettor Maggiore Don Stefano Martoglio, SDB

**Ancorati alla speranza,  
Pellegrini con i giovani**

Programma



XLIII Giornate di Spiritualità della Famiglia Salesiana  
ANS Torino - Valdocco, 16 - 19 gennaio 2025

Strenna 2024 and SFSDs 2025 Program advertisement  
Courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)

sons and daughters across the years; and a pilgrimage, together with young people, sharing their joys and hopes and showing them the hope we are anchored in, Christ Jesus.

### Program Overview

This program includes, among other things,

- the presentation of the Strenna by the Vicar of the Rector Major on January 16 in Turin (video);
- an in-depth study of the Strenna by some members of the Salesian Family in the area, both in the form of a roundtable and in the form of a conference;
- time for group work with participants who have already registered;
- some time for prayer and celebration; a Good Morning or Good Night;
- the projection of videos showing experiences of the Salesian Family;
- a friendly performance by the presenters of the program; and
- room for SYM young people to pass on their experiences.

*All talks at the Salesian Family Spirituality days will be "live streamed" and recorded. All videos of presentations at the Salesian Family Spirituality Days will be accessible via YouTube..*


We encourage small-group viewings of the presentations/videos and discussion on "how we implement the Strenna in our local works—more information to come in January.

**Explore the program!**









**Your pilgrimage includes:**

- Escort throughout.
- Transportation in private coach
- 8- nights accommodations including all taxes
- Breakfast daily
- A special lunch in Monteferrato
- 4 dinners
- Local guides
- All tours per itinerary
- Tips for all services included (exception housekeeping)

**COST OF PILGRIMAGE BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:**  
\$3999.00

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY ONLY ON AVAILABILITY AND MUST BE CONFIRMED BY DUBE TRAVEL**

Cost is based on 26 persons or more

**TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:** A deposit of \$500.00 per person is due with reservation form. (Subsequent payments \$500.)

Payment 2: June 30, 2024. Payment 3: August 1st, 2024. Payment 4: October 1st, 2024. Payment 5: December 1st, 2024. Final Payment will be due on March 3rd, 2025.

**CANCELLATION:** If you must cancel after you have made your deposit and before 3/31/2025 there will be a \$500.00 cancellation fee. If you must cancel after 3/31/2025 full payment is non-refundable. We strongly urge you to consider taking a cancellation insurance policy.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Dube Travel Leaders is acting only as an agent for the passenger and, therefore, accepts no responsibility for any delayed departures or arrivals, missed connections, loss, damage, or injury to person or property. Dube Travel and GT Experiences reserve the right to change the itinerary and substitute arrangements of any equal value, if in their opinion circumstances warrant change. We also reserve the right to cancel a tour and/or decline to book or retain any person(s), making full or equitable refunds.

(This tour is based on 26 persons or more.)

For more information please contact  
Fr. Richard P. Alejunas, SDB at  
alejunas@hotmail.com

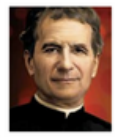
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E-mail her at [trdrigue@dubetravel.com](mailto:trdrigue@dubetravel.com)

You may mail your reservation to  
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Auburn, Me 04210

**SALESIAN FAMILY PILGRIMAGE**

For  
**The Province of St. Philip the Apostle, Canada & Eastern USA**

Anney, France & Turin, Italy with an optional extension to Rome.



**Land dates:  
May 5-13 &  
June 2-10, 2025**

## SDB and FMA Province Pilgrimages for Spring and Summer 2025

**When:** May 5-13 & June 2-10, 2025 (SDB)  
July 18 - August 4, 2025 (FMA)

**Where:** Anney, France, and Turin, Italy, with optional extension to Rome (SDB)  
Milan, Turin, Mornese, and Assisi, Italy (FMA)

Questions? For the **SDB pilgrimage**, contact **Fr. Richard Alejunas, SDB**, at [alejunas@hotmail.com](mailto:alejunas@hotmail.com).

For the **FMA pilgrimage**, visit [this website](http://this website).



<https://iss-acssa.org/>

## Continental seminars International convention

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first missionary expeditions of the Salesians of don Bosco (1875) and of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (1877)

**"GO OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD; PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION."** Mk 16,15

- **AFRICA-MADAGASCAR**  
Lusaka Makeni, Zambia, 23-29 march 2025
- **AMERICA**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 3-7 june 2025
- **SOUTH ASIA**  
Bangalore, India, 27-29 june 2025
- **EUROPE**  
Rome, Italy, 22-26 october 2025
- **EAST ASIA-OCEANIA**  
Laguna, Philippines, 3-7 november 2025
- **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**  
Brazil, february/march 2027



Giovanni Cagliero



Angela Vallese



Istituto Figlie di Maria Assisiliche  
www.iss-acssa.org

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTORI STORIA SALESIANA





## SDB and FMA Continental Seminars and International Convention

**When:** March 23-29, 2025 (Africa-Madagascar)  
June 3-7, 2024 (South America)  
June 29-27, 2025 (South Asia)  
October 22-26, 2025 (Europe)  
November 3-7, 2025 (East Asia-Oceania)  
February/March 2027 (International Convention)

**Where:** Lusaka Makeni Zambia (Africa-Madagascar)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina (South America)  
Bangalore, India (South Asia)  
Rome, Italy (Europe)  
Laguna, Philippines (East Asia-Oceania)  
Brazil (International Convention)



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## Learn more!







# Links for Youth Ministry and More



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Strenna 2025

*"Anchored in hope, pilgrims with young people"*



*Maria Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis!*