



# Salesian Family Snippets



*News of the Salesian Family Near and Far*

## ► **THE TSUNAMI OF HOPE**

A blessing in the midst of tragedy.

## **THE DEEPEST LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING**

God waits with great patience for each one of us to come back to Him.

## **SALESIAN COOPERATOR LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTED**

We congratulate them on their generous "yes."





# In This Issue



## LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

**The Tsunami of Hope** 03



## IN, WITH, AND FOR THE CHURCH

**NASN Annual Meeting** 05

*United in Salesian Spirituality*

**Very First FMAs of Mornese** 06

*Sr. Rose Mazzarello*

## PILGRIMAGE 2022

**The Deepest Love and Understanding** 07

*Amoris Laetitia, Chapter 8*

## IN THE SALESIAN FAMILY KNOW

**Salesian Cooperator** 08

**Local Council Elected**

*for the Greater Toronto Area*

## IN THE SALESIAN FAMILY KNOW

*continued*

**Salesian Family Gatherings** 09

*SDB Ordinations*

*ADMA Inductions*



## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 1:** *Canada Day*

**July 4:** *Independence Day*

**July 7:** *Bl. Maria Romero, FMA*

**July 10-15:** *SDB Provincial Chapter, St. Philip (SUE) Province*

**July 15:** *Province Day*

**July 24:** *World Day of Prayers for Grandparents and the Elderly*

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.

*Front and back cover photos courtesy of Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS) | Photos on "In This Issue" page courtesy of Canva Pro*



*The Rector Major during his time in Thailand  
Photo by Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)*

## The Tsunami of Hope

The land of sorrow and death today hosts a house of affectionate rebirth  
and well-founded hope thanks to the sons of Don Bosco.

THE MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR MAJOR DON ÁNGEL FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, SDB

Dear friends of Don Bosco's charism, I offer you my cordial greetings, as I do every month. You certainly know that one of the most beautiful components of friendship is to be able to share one's feelings, joys, and anxieties. Therefore, I want to share with you the experience I recently had among my Salesian brothers and sisters in Thailand.

I went to that fascinating part of the world to animate and encourage the Salesian community and works that have flourished there for a long time. Among the objectives of my visit was one in particular: to know a small but beautiful Salesian presence located in a place of intense sorrow—today a place of life—right where one of the saddest pages of modern history was written. That corner of the world suffered the most serious natural disaster of the modern era, the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

The tsunami claimed some 230,000 victims, thousands more missing, beaches, lives, entire regions completely destroyed—vanished into thin air. Waves were never seen so high, some up to 50 feet. Entire hotel complexes were wiped out, along with

thousands of tourists who had come from all over the world to spend the holiday season. Right here, in the area of Khao Lak, one of the most affected, in a small fishing village that's also a tourist town, a "paradise" especially for foreigners, the dead and missing amounted to almost 8,000 people—an immense tragedy. At that time, Fr. Chavez, my predecessor as Rector Major, asked the Salesian provincial of Thailand to act immediately to take many of the orphan victims of the tsunami into a new Salesian presence.

Until then, there were no Salesians in that area of Thailand. But with the spirit and dynamism that Don Bosco bequeathed to us, everything was taken care of. In a very short time at least 117 boys and girls had a home in which a large family welcomed them, gave them security, and even amid the grief, gave them the possibility of looking at life with hope.

The years have passed, and those boys and girls have grown up. They've been able to receive an education, and today they are women and men with their own families and

satisfying lives. It became a blessing even in the midst of tragedy.

### *The miracle of a new life*

Today, 18 years later, there are no more orphans of that tsunami at Khao Lak. But we can ask, what happened to this Salesian presence?

That's what I saw with my own eyes. When we arrived, 42 children and adolescents between six and 15 years old were waiting for us. They are living a beautiful experience of friendship and family. They're organized in five charming hexagonal houses in which they have at their disposal a kitchen, laundry, toilets, showers, a study room, a dining room, and a small dormitory. Like the whole region, it's heavenly. The vegetation is leafy and lush. I must admit that the heat is also strong and a little oppressive. A green hill "guards" the village from above. A little further on are long stretches of sand bordered by wooded hills, while the clean, warm water of the Indian Ocean runs along the coast. Next to the Salesian house is the public school which our boys and girls attend.

Who are these boys and girls? They have no connection with the tsunami of the sea, but rather with the tsunami of life, poverty, family breakdown. Generally, they don't have parents; there are those who have the protection of a distant uncle or an even more distant, almost unknown, relative.

The Salesian house is an opportunity that transforms lives, that performs real "miracles." Yes, I repeat the word: real



*The Rector Major with Salesian Sisters in Thailand  
Photo by Agenzia Info Salesiana (ANS)*

"miracles." Don't be frightened by this. I can assure you that I was moved to know that the girls who are there, in this house that is now their home, have the opportunity to prepare happily for life, to feel cared for and protected, to be educated, to study ... sometimes at the highest levels. And do you know why I say it's a miracle? Because without this opportunity, these 13-year-old youngsters could be forced to fall into a network of prostitution or child exploitation or be forced at the age of 14 to marry some elderly husband.

I thought: "This would be enough to demonstrate the value of the beautiful ideal of Don Bosco's charism, which even today, 165 years later, is being incarnated and realized." I would add something else that I find wonderful. You might think that we have a Salesian community there, but it isn't so. Our presences in Thailand and the needs to be attended to are so many, so different, so vast that we can't reach

them all with Salesian communities. But Salesian presences are staffed by Salesian educators of all kinds. In particular, at the Don Bosco House of Hope, two consecrated lay women are responsible for this educational presence and act as mothers 24 hours a day. There's also a married couple, Salesian Cooperators, who take care of the administration, the shopping, everything needed, and there's a lady, a real Mama Margaret, who's an exceptional cook. The Salesian province makes sure that they don't lack what they need. It's a presence like many others and is cared for with the same affection. Two last points. First, Salesian creativity enables these boys and girls to make high-quality handicrafts that they can sell. The proceeds are set aside and constitute the little fund that they'll take with them when they leave the Salesian house. The Salesian province is also preparing a market where they can exhibit and sell everything they produce, especially to attract the many tourists.

Second, my heart was filled with joy when I learned that 12 percent of these boys and girls of Don Bosco go on to university, 15 percent continue their technical studies in our vocational schools, and more than 50 percent, after finishing public school, find a job with which to start their lives independently.

There I had not only a beautiful dream, but I found a reality that was very close to my heart. This is another of those good things, good news that exists, that develops, that doesn't make noise but that makes the world more beautiful. That's why the sorrow of the tsunami today gives way to the beauty of hope.

# In, With, and For the Church



NASN 2022 Meeting Zoom screenshot; Michael Moran, Sons of St. Francis de Sales, not pictured  
Photo by Fr. John Puntino, SDB

## NASN Annual Meeting *United in Salesian Spirituality*

BY FR. JOHN PUNTINO, SDB

The North American Salesian Network (NASN) held its annual meeting from Monday, April 25, to Wednesday, April 27, at DeSales Center in Brooklyn, MI. Eight group representatives came in person while another eight joined by Zoom. NASN brings together organizations and apostolates who share in the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in order to facilitate collaboration and the sharing of resources among member groups.

At the meeting Fr. Ken McKenna, OSFS, introduced Mr. Ian Kinney as the newly appointed coordinator, who then conducted the business of the meeting. Ian is also executive director of DeSales Resource and Ministries, Embraced By God.

The members approved an expanded set of by-laws and proceeded to the election of the president and treasurer. Fr. Ken was elected to continue as president, and Ms. Anne Williams of Visitation Salesian Network was elected to continue as treasurer. Fr. John Puntino, SDB, and Ms. Kathy Tierney of DeSales Secular Institute remain in their respective positions

as vice-president and secretary until their positions come up for election in 2023. Members shared what each of their organizations or apostolates are doing for the 400th anniversary of the death of St. Francis de Sales and the 450th anniversary of the birth of St. Jane de Chantal, co-foundress of the Visitation Sisters.

Aware of NASN's purpose as a service organization, members discussed ways of assisting and collaborating with each other. Through the initiative of NASN, the Superiors General of Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the President General of DeSales Secular Institute joined Fr. Ángel Fernández in petitioning the Holy See for an apostolic letter on St. Francis de Sales. Other activities include expanding the [Salesian Network website](#) and preparing a vocations brochure with contact information for member groups. Next year's meeting will take place from April 17-19, 2023, at the Sisters of St. Francis' Center of Renewal, Stella Niagara, NY.



*A young Sister prays the Rosary  
Photo courtesy of Canva Pro*

## **Very First FMAs of Mornese: *Sr. Rose Mazzarello***

COMPILED BY SR. JUDITH SUPRYS, FMA

Sr. Rose Mazzarello, no relation to St. Mary Mazzarello, was one of the first eleven Sisters to make profession as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians on August 5, 1872. Rose Mazzarello was born in Mornese on September 27, 1850. She was raised by her parents in the holy fear of God. She was still a young girl when she joined the small group of Daughters of Mary Immaculate, from which sprang the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Although she enjoyed some comfort in the FMA family, she knew immediately how to adapt to the hardships of the early days of the Institute. She was endowed with an uncommon spirit of piety. She greatly loved work, practiced mortification with true heroism, and endured suffering with enviable resignation.

At Mornese in the early days of the Institute, the townspeople were often critical of the newly formed Sisters. Due to their occupations, Sr. Teresa Pampuro and Sr. Rose Mazzarello had substituted cotton habits for woolen ones on weekdays. Sr. Teresa did the shopping for the community; Sr. Rose did the humble, tiring household chores. Both were, therefore, exposed to the gaze of externs, and the workmen who were still coming

and going in the school. This gave rise to further sarcasm in the district. "Look there," said friends and enemies alike. "These two are the maids; the others are in command with the whip." Yet Mother Mazzarello gently but firmly encouraged, "What does it matter what they say? Now we are religious, and must be seen as such without minding all that. The important thing is that we give glory to God and become saints."

Humble, very active while she enjoyed good health, Sr. Rose was always the right hand of Mother Mazzarello and the community. In her illness, she was an example of how to sanctify sufferings. On Monday, March 5, 1875, dear Sr. Rose Mazzarello went to heaven, which had been her sole desire, yearning to be united to Jesus. With all the care and attention of her maternal heart, Mother Mazzarello had been beside her during her long illness. She would gladly have provided anything to alleviate her suffering, but the dear invalid always said she had too much and that their care for her was excessive. The people of Mornese felt her loss, for all of them knew and loved Sr. Rose.

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



## Pilgrimage 2022



*A happy couple dancing on the sidewalk  
Photo courtesy of Canva Pro*

### **The Deepest Love and Understanding** *Amoris Laetitia, Chapter 8*

BY SR. MYRIAM MEUS, FMA

As I prepared the presentation on chapter eight of *Amoris Laetitia*, titled "Accompanying, Discerning, and Integrating Weakness," I was amazed at the wise and loving message addressed to and on behalf of families that may find themselves at different stages in living out the ideals of a marriage. The Holy Father makes it clear that the Church is aware of the different realities of conjugal relationships in the world—realities that exist within cultural and/or economic contexts in certain societies. The message of chapter eight of *Amoris Laetitia* invites everyone, particularly those who are accompanying these families, to approach each situation with the deepest love and understanding.

Reading this chapter made me reflect on how God waits with great patience for each one of us to come back to Him whenever we sin. The document points out the gradualness of pastoral accompaniment, of listening to the other so as to become familiar with his/her story and situation. It is only then that a suitable and charitable accompaniment toward the fullness of the truth can take place. While respecting the truth, the Holy



*Family in church  
Photo courtesy of Canva Pro*

Father urges us to teach "how to forgive, to understand, and to hope."

As *Amoris Laetitia* reminds us, "the Church has the task of going out to meet those who want to remain near God to help them to transform their failures and sufferings into opportunities to journey toward the fulness of the Gospel." It is the responsibility of each member of the Church to welcome with the "balm of mercy" these families that find themselves in need of assistance.



# In the Salesian Family Know



(from left to right) *Daiana Moschetto, Sandra Gonzalez, John Lopes, Sr. Alphonsine Roy, Foster Kwon, and Rosina Di Felice*  
Photo by Sr. Alphonsine Roy, FMA

## Salesian Cooperator Local Council Elected for the Greater Toronto Area

BY SR. ALPHONSINE ROY, FMA

On Sunday, June 5, Salesian Cooperators for the Greater Toronto Area had a beautiful face-to-face meeting. During our time together, we shared reflections on the two last chapters of *Christus Vivit* on discernment and vocation.

After formation, we took some time to thank Joe and Jill Conroy for their generous leadership during the last six years. We then prayed to the Holy Spirit to enlighten us as we entered the elections.

After three rounds of ballots, five council members were elected. Then, after a brief meeting to decide the roles for each councilor, we presented the new Salesian Cooperator local council for our Mary Help of Christians Center for 2022-2025:



**John Lopes, Coordinator**  
**Foster Kwon, Treasurer**  
**Daiana Moschetto, Secretary**  
**Rosina Di Felice, Formator**  
**Sandra Gonzalez, Councilor**

We congratulate them on their generous "yes." A special thank you also to Fr. John Mariapragasam, SDB, whom we were honored to have present with us.



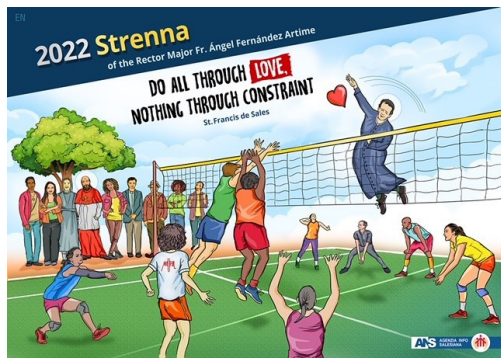
## Salesian Family Gatherings



(top photo, from left to right) Dcn. Branden Gordon, SDB; the Most Rev. Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto; and Fr. Ky Nguyen, SDB  
 (bottom photo, second from right) Dcn. Joshua Sciuillo, SDB  
 Photos by Gloria Wang and Fr. Dave Moreno, SDB

### SDB Ordinations

Read about *Fr. Ky Nguyen's and Dcn. Branden Gordon's ordinations in Orange, NJ*, along with *Dcn. Joshua Sciuillo's ordination in Jerusalem*.



**Let Us Do All Things Through Love**



Fr. Lou Molinelli, SDB, welcomes a new member into ADMA  
 Designed by Fr. Samson D. Antony, SDB

### ADMA Inductions

Click [here](#) read about the first batch of Associazione di Maria Ausiliatrice (ADMA) members making their commitment on the feast of Mary Help of Christians in Surrey, BC.



**Maria Auxilium Christianorum, ora pro nobis!**



**"I want you always to be cheerful. I recommend that you be humble, full of charity, and patient with all."**

- St. Mary Mazzarello



Our email address is:

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**BE WHO YOU ARE  
&  
BE THAT WELL.**

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES