



# SALESIAN

Canada &  
Eastern USA

news



Crucifix Garden at Salesian High School  
Photo by Bill Aiello

## Salesian High Schools' Care for the Environment

By Mrs. Amy Stockinger, Office Support Manager, Province  
Offices of Vocations and Youth Ministry

(New Rochelle, NY – May 22) – The Salesian Congregation continues to encourage all works to intentionally participate in the area of integral ecology, which focuses on addressing environmental, economic, social, cultural, human, and daily life concerns. Salesian High School and Don Bosco Preparatory High School are responding to this call through several initiatives.

Mr. Bill Aiello explained that at Salesian

High School (SHS), "We now have three native plant gardens on campus, with plans for a few more over time this year. The plants and labor were donated by an alumnus and his wife, with some help from the school's National Honor Society. These gardens are meant to attract pollinators, and become pathways for the birds, bees, and butterflies as they travel." In addition, SHS has installed solar panels on the roof of their athletic center and refill stations for reusable water

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bottles to replace plastic water bottles.

Mr. Robert Sellers shared that Don Bosco Preparatory High School has a club named The Dirt Brothers whose mission "is to learn about native plants, educate the wider Bosco community, and transform both the Bosco campus and community to a life-giving and sustaining environment by getting Dirty and inspiring others to do the same." Their current projects include "two large beds on the backside of Savio Hall and a small triangle in front of Immaculata with native plugs donated by The Pollen Nation nursey in NJ."

*Laudato Si'* Week 2023 is currently taking place (from May 21-28). This year's theme is

"Hope for the earth. Hope for humanity." If your local work has any integral ecology projects, please let us know by emailing Amy Stockinger at [amarinaro@salesianym.com](mailto:amarinaro@salesianym.com).

## SYM Corner

### The Local Coordinator of YM and the YM Team

By Fr. Lou Molinelli, SDB,  
Province Delegate of Youth  
Ministry

Over these weeks, I have been reflecting on the different animating structures of youth ministry in the *Frame of Reference*. Let's take a look now at the local Coordinator of Youth Ministry and Team. We are told that the role of the CYM and the Team is to "... **plan, organize and coordinate the pastoral activity of the work, according to the objectives set out in the educative pastoral plan (SEPP), under the guidelines of the council of the EPC...working closely with the Director**" (p. 277-278). The *Frame of Reference* makes it clear that the CYM is not a lone ranger who is disconnected from others or the work in his/her ministry. Rather, the CYM works together with a team composed of representatives from the EPC to further the pastoral Salesian mission among the young and the total community. Most especially, the role of CYM and team involve the following tasks:

- To collaborate with the EPC Council to ensure that the fundamental features of Salesian Youth Ministry form part of the local educative pastoral plan, and to ensure that they are put into practice and evaluated;



Tampa CYM Chioma Okoye (second from left)  
with young people on Divine Mercy Sunday  
Photo courtesy of Mary Help of Christians Center Tampa's Facebook

- To coordinate the implementation of the local educative pastoral plan through planning with the different sectors of pastoral activity for which the CYM is responsible;
- To coordinate the implementation and integration of the local educative pastoral plan, ensuring that all activities work together and are directed toward education to the faith;
- To promote opportunities for formation for those engaged in the ministry for the young; and
- To ensure good collaboration and coordination of the local ministry with the local Church and other educative bodies in the area.

As you can see, the role of the local CYM and the team involves an active presence in all sectors of the local ministry. At times, some can think of the CYM's role as just focusing in on the religious and spiritual program of the local work with no involvement in other more administrative or educative tasks. No—the role of the CYM and the team, under the guidance of the director, is to infuse and take care to see that all aspects of the local mission are infused with the Salesian charism and are held accountable for the

elements of the educative pastoral plan. It is a huge task, but it is one that is essential for our charismatic identity and pastoral life in our works. Let's be supportive of our CYMs and their teams and continue to collaborate together for the salvation of souls!

## Province News



(from left to right) Dcn. Branden Gordon and Dcn. Joshua Sciallo  
Photo by Victoria Weekley

### We're Two Days Away from Ordinations!

Join us on Saturday, May 27, for the priestly ordination of Frs. Branden Gordon, SDB, and Joshua Sciallo, SDB, at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Orange, NJ, at 10:00 am ET. The celebrant will be Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Mariadiaga, SDB, archbishop emeritus of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. A luncheon will follow.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to [provinceformation@gmail.com](mailto:provinceformation@gmail.com) or call 201-327-8003 x 170.

Unable to attend? *Watch this year's ordinations, which will be live-streamed on Facebook!*



Fr. Rich Alejuanas (third from left) leads the procession in Chicago  
Photo by Br. Daniel Glass, SDB



Claudia (mother) and Samara (daughter) from Port Chester crown Our Lady  
Photo by Br. Mihn Tu



Crowning of Mary Help of Christians in Port Chester  
Photo courtesy of St. John Bosco Parish Port Chester's Facebook

## Festivities for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians, Pt. I

With submissions by Fr. Rich Alejuanas, SDB; Fr. Tom Dunne, SDB; and St. John Bosco Parish Port Chester's Facebook

*Some of our communities held early celebrations for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians. Here is how three of our communities in the Eastern USA observed Our Lady in a spirit of Salesian joy.*

### CHICAGO

On Sunday, May 21, the Chicago Salesian presence held its now annual Mary Help of Christians procession from St. John Bosco Church to St. James Church through the streets of its Riis Park neighborhood. With a police escort over 300 adults and young people **evangelized** with Mother Mary and a public witness of prayer and song.

Upon arrival at St. James Church, the pilgrim journey ended with a Coronation of the Mary Help of Christians image, her Blessing, and the **Fiesta Maria Auxiliadora**, a parish

community outdoor event with food and dance!

The local presence boasts two ADMA groups, one at each church campus to advance its Salesian mission in each location. On this day they unite with the EPC Parish Council to animate this great testimony to Mary's love here in Chicago. **Viva Maria!**

### PORT CHESTER

That same day, Salesian Family gathered at St. John Bosco Parish in Port Chester to celebrate both Mary Help of Christians and the 40th anniversary of Fr. Joe Vien Hoang's ordination.

### STONY POINT

On Saturday, May 20, the Salesian Family in the Northeast area of the province gathered on a rainy day to give honor to Don Bosco's Madonna, Mary Immaculate, the Help of Christians. Approximately 250 Salesian Family and friends came together for an Oratory Day of shared friendship, prayer, formation, evangelization, and fun. The spirit of our celebrants was not deterred by the wet weather which confined them to inside activities in the youth center buildings.

St. John Bosco Parish in Port Chester brought a busload of families and Salesian Family members of all ages. It was a great joy to welcome five young adults from the Salesian Family who traveled from Toronto (St. Benedict Parish) to join the celebration. St. Benedict Parish's Coordinator of Youth Ministry Mariel Cabrera, who led the Canadian group, said that she thought it would be good for these young adults to experience Don Bosco's Oratory with the wider Salesian Family in the province. These young men and women were warmly welcomed by their young brothers and sisters from all Salesian Family groups (SDB, FMA, Salesian Cooperators, ADMA, past pupils, students, families, and lay colleagues).



The Salesian Family of Stony Point offered our pilgrims a warm welcome. Their efforts made it possible to transform Marian Day into an indoor experience. Throughout the day, Don Bosco's bold statement from long ago stood true: "Mary is here now."



Fr. Bill Bucciferro during the Mass on his 40th anniversary  
Photo by Br. Daniel Glass, SDB



Fr. Bill Bucciferro (center) and his Joliet, IL, family  
Photo by Br. Daniel Glass, SDB



The farewell breakfast for Fr. Saga Devadoss  
Photo by Angie Cook

## Chicago: Celebrating Fr. Bill Bucciferro's 40th Anniversary

By Fr. Rich Alejunas, SDB

(Chicago, IL – May 22) – The Salesians of Chicago hosted Fr. Bill Bucciferro and his Joliet, IL, family for a community celebration of his 40 years of Salesian priestly ministry. He was ordained in Columbus, OH, on May 21, 1983. Fifteen years later, Fr. Bill was assigned to St. John Bosco Parish in Chicago (est. 1934), where he was its first Salesian pastor from 1998-2007.

An SDB concelebrated bilingual Mass was held on Sunday, May 21. SUE Provincial Council members Fr. Michael Conway and Br. Bill Hanna flew in for the occasion. Fr. Bill presided and preached in English with reflections on the priesthood and the presence of Jesus and Mary in our lives. He was joined at the parish Mass by 20 or so family members. Fr. Rich Alejunas (the local director/pastor) preached in Spanish.

At the parish's annual outdoor **Fiesta Maria Auxiliadora** at the St. James Church campus the focus this year was

on Fr. Bill and his family, where they danced with the traditional "Chinelos" and feasted on a catered dinner of both Mexican and Italian dishes. ***Ad multos annos, Fr. Bill!***

## Edmonton: Farewell Brunch for Fr. Saga Devadoss

By Angie Cook and Toni Maloney

(Edmonton, AB – May 25) – Last week, the Mary Help of Christians Group hosted a farewell brunch for Rev. Fr. Sagayarai "Saga" Devadoss with 17 members and friends in attendance. We are sad to see our shepherd at St. Dominic Savio Parish leave to return home to Chennai after five years. Yet, we are all so pleased for him that he will be taking on a co-ordinator's role in Chennai. Some of our members received a special shawl from Fr. Saga.

Under Fr. Saga's guidance, we formed the Mary Help of Christians Group almost two years ago and have a much better understanding of St. John Bosco's fervent devotion to Mary Help of Christians. We commenced our

Novena to Mary Help of Christians on Monday, May 15, and ended with the Holy Mass on Wednesday, May 24.

For 2023, one of our initiatives is to make 200 rosaries for the elementary schools within our parish deanery. The sessions will continue this fall, and we will invite parishioners to join us in completing the rosaries and deliver them to three schools. Even Fr. Saga took an active part in learning how to make the rosaries.



Fr. Saga Devadoss (left) and two members of the Mary Help of Christians Group make rosaries  
Photo by Angie Cook

Once again, we thank the Lord for Fr. Saga and wish him all the best on his next assignment. He will be in our thoughts and prayers whenever the group meets.



(from left to right) Fr. John Nazzaro stands with Dcn. Joshua Sciullo and Dcn. Branden Gordon as they hold their degrees  
Photo by Vice-Provincial Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB



(from left to right) Mr. Nicholas Marchese, Assistant Head of School; Valedictorian Jason Brown, Jr.; Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB, Director; Salutatorian Colin Crespo; and Fr. John Langan, SDB, Assistant of Youth Ministry  
Photo by Br. Kevin White, SDB



Animation team after completing Hearts Present and Joyful  
Photo by Fr. Tito Iannaccio, SDB



(from left to right) Br. Francis Nguyen and Br. Paul Hotovy with their certificates  
Photo by Vice-Provincial Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB

## Orange: Four Salesians Graduate From Seton Hall

By Vice-Provincial Fr. Dominic Tran, SDB

(New Rochelle, NY – May 23) – Four Salesians received their certifications and degrees from the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The graduation took place on Wednesday, May 17, at the Cathedral of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. Br. Paul Hotovy and Br. Francis Nguyen received their Certificates of Philosophical Theology. Then Dcn. Branden Gordon received his Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry, while Dcn. Joshua Sciullo received his Master of Arts in Theology.

## Marrero: Archbishop Shaw Celebrates 61st Commencement

By Br. Kevin White, SDB, and Ms. Ashley Robichaux, Advancement Administrative Assistant, Archbishop Shaw High School

(Marrero, LA – May 22) – This past weekend, Archbishop Shaw High School celebrated its 61st Annual Commencement Exercises. On Friday, May 19, the Baccalaureate Mass was held in the school gym. During the Baccalaureate Mass, the salutatorian and valedictorian for the class of 2023 were named. This year's salutatorian was Colin Crespo who will attend the University of Michigan in the fall. This year's valedictorian was Jason Brown, Jr., who will attend the University of Mississippi in the fall.

On Saturday, May 20, the Archbishop Shaw Class of 2023 officially graduated during the 61st Annual Commencement Exercises. Sixty students graduated, and there were about 500 people in attendance. The atmosphere was very energized by the excitement from the graduates and their families.

## Montréal: DBLM Makes Strides

By Fr. Luc Lantagne, SDB, and Fr. Tito Iannaccio, SDB

(Montréal, QC – May 23) – The Don Bosco Latino Ministry (DBLM) is experiencing success with its strategic plan and the attention of Latin American families and their young children. We offer them a variety of programs in order to form and prepare them for life, according to Don Bosco's Pedagogy.

We currently have these areas of intervention: EPRE "Miguel Magone" (for 12-13 year olds); EPRE "Laura Vicuña" (ages 14-15); EJE "Carlo Acutis" (ages 15-17) – EJE-YES "Domigo Savio" (ages 18-19), and ESCOGE (for young adults ages 18-35). We simultaneously work with their parents while young people and their young animators work in similar programs. We have also offered *Hearts Present and Joyful* to our animators, who completed the last session on Sunday, May 21. On Saturday, May 20, we celebrated Mass in a journey of

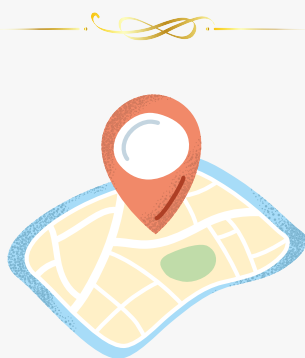


Animation team during the session for Hearts Present and Joyful  
Photo by Fr. Tito Iannaccio, SDB

Latino Family Day and an afternoon of entertainment and food together.

Every 15 days, there are dynamic meetings of formation for kids and parents. Additionally, every 15 alternate days, the animation team sets the next formation meetings.

It is our commitment to establish a sort of Formation Center, named: "Centro Salesiano de Espiritualidad y Acompañamiento Juvenil" (CSEyAJ).



## Notate Bene



The province office of communications will attend the Catholic Media Conference in early June. We will prepare an issue ahead of time next week before we leave early the following week. To ensure your news is featured in time, please send your articles and stories directly to [communications@salesians.org](mailto:communications@salesians.org) by **Tuesday, May 30.**

## Necrology

June 2023

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 3 <b>Fr. Fausto Motta</b> , 68<br>North Haledon, NJ, 1992       | 13 <b>Fr. Aloysius Bianchi</b> , 68<br>Rome, 1981              |
| 4 <b>Fr. Kevin O'Brien</b> , 33<br>Tampa, FL, 1981              | 13 <b>Fr. Charles Ceglar</b> , 87<br>Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1999 |
| 4 <b>Fr. William Kelley</b> , 84<br>New Rochelle, NY, 1995      | 14 <b>Fr. Ernest Faggioni</b> , 88<br>St. Petersburg, FL, 2006 |
| 5 <b>Fr. David Gonder</b> , 55<br>New Rochelle, NY, 1998        | 14 <b>Fr. Peter Granzotto</b> , 91<br>Port Chester, NY, 2018   |
| 6 <b>Fr. Alphonse Volonté</b> , 83<br>Port Chester, NY, 1957    | 19 <b>Fr. Kenneth Germaine</b> , 89<br>Palm Harbor, FL, 2020   |
| 6 <b>Fr. George Williams</b> , 101<br>Manchester, England, 2017 | 20 <b>Br. Joseph DiBella</b> , 89<br>Andover, NJ, 1970         |
| 7 <b>Fr. John "Jay" Verona</b> , 74<br>Gussago, Italy, 1989     | 20 <b>Fr. Paul Csik</b> , 72<br>Haverstraw, NY, 1970           |
| 8 <b>Br. John Zito</b> , 88<br>Tampa, FL, 2010                  | 21 <b>Br. Charles Verville</b> , 69<br>Ramsey, NJ, 1976        |
| 10 <b>Br. Gerard Poirier</b> , 83<br>Sherbrooke, QC, 2006       | 21 <b>Fr. Gabriel Zulli</b> , 73<br>Paterson, NJ, 1987         |
| 11 <b>Fr. Chester Wisniewski</b> , 65<br>Ramsey, NJ, 1979       | 22 <b>Fr. Aloysius Trifari</b> , 70<br>Birmingham, AL, 1968    |
| 11 <b>Fr. Theodore Ciampi</b> , 79<br>Marrero, LA, 1987         | 25 <b>Fr. John Porello</b> , 43<br>Ramsey, NJ, 1946            |
| 12 <b>Fr. August Kita</b> , 76<br>Suffern, NY, 2008             | 25 <b>Fr. Charles Niznansky</b> , 64<br>Goshen, NY, 1984       |
|   | 30 <b>Br. Andrew LaCombe</b> , 86<br>Bronx, NY, 2018           |





(from left to right) SUE Provincial Council members Br. Bill Hanna and Fr. Mike Conway with Fr. Kris Cepil and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence (DSMP), sometimes called the Guanellian Sisters  
Photo by Br. Daniel Glass, SDB



Crowning of Mary Help of Christians at la Fiesta Maria Auxiliadora in Chicago  
Photo by Br. Daniel Glass, SDB



Salesians in Port Chester celebrate the 40th anniversary of Fr. Joe Vien Hoang's (center) priestly ordination  
Photo courtesy of St. John Bosco Parish Port Chester's Facebook

## Birthdays Salesian Holiness



### Birthdays

May 26: Fr. Louis Molinelli

May 28: Fr. George Atok

June 1: Fr. George Harkins

June 3: Fr. John Janko

June 6: Br. Travis Gunther

June 7: Fr. Frank Kelly

June 8: Fr. Timothy Ploch

### Salesian Holiness

May 29: Bl. Joseph Kowalski

June 8: Bl. Stephen Sándor

## Prayers for Healing Deceased



### Prayers for Healing

Alejandro Acosta Lagaxio, nephew of Fr. Raúl M. Acosta Zunini, SDB

José María Acosta Zunini, brother of Fr. Raúl M. Acosta Zunini, SDB

Vinny Camire, nephew of Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB

Isolina Feliciano-Gonnion, sister of Fr. Abraham Feliciano, SDB

Fr. Shiju James' mother, nephews, and nieces

Julie Kirkland, Office Manager, St. John Bosco Parish, Harvey, LA

Br. Charles Mayer, SDB

Raquel Nash, niece of Fr. John Nazzaro, SDB

Robert Serio, nephew of Fr. John Serio, SDB

Ann Smith, Salesian Family, New Rochelle, NY

Fr. Wacław Swierzbiolek, SDB



Salesians after the Mass of Perpetual Profession, August 2021  
Photo by Ms. Victoria Weekley

### Weekly Prayer

for May 25-31, 2023

From May 25-31, please pray in your communities and works for  
Dcn. Branden and Dcn. Joshua, who will be ordained to the  
priesthood on Saturday, May 27.

*"We imagine we would feel better if we were on another ship;  
that may be, but only if we change ourselves!"*

**- St. Francis de Sales**

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Salesians of Don Bosco, Canada and Eastern USA

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