



Salesians of Don Bosco

Vocation Office News

Province of St. Philip the Apostle

Volume 7, Issue 6

Feast of Mary Help of Christians

**"Run, jump,
amuse yourselves
as much as you
like, but
do not sin!"**

**We are
ALL
about
YOUTH**

**Be a
Brother
or Priest
with us!**
www.salesianvocation.com

From the director's desk

Dear Friends,

Don Bosco is coming! The relic of St. John Bosco comes to the USA next fall. Please check out the website www.donboscoamongus.org for details. I hope all of you are as excited as I am about this opportunity to spread the news about our favorite saint.



The feast of May Help of Christians is the 24th of this month. Enclosed in this mailing is the novena of Mary Help of Christians. Pray it for your vocation. Nobody goes into a religious vocation with the Blessed Mother having a hand in it. For us Salesians she is absolutely essential in accompanying us through our life's pilgrimage.

Go to Mary this month and ask for help.

In Christ and Mary

Fr. Steve Ryan SDB

Fr. Steve Ryan SDB
Vocation Director of USA East



LIFE CAMP

FOR MEN
AGES: 16 - 22

JUNE 24 - 27, 2010
TAMPA, FL

JULY 21 - 24, 2010
NEWTON, NJ



To sign up:

www.salesianvocation.com

Or contact: Fr. Franco Pinto @ (973) 761-0201

A CAMP FOR THE TOUGH

Discernment Weekend



South Orange, NJ - April 16-18, 2010 the Vocation Office offered a discernment weekend. We had five fine young men who attended. Of the five, two were from NJ, 1 from Florida, 1 from Ohio and one came from Archbishop Shaw, New Orleans, LA.

Br. Michael Leschinsky, Br. Tom Dion, our novice Juan Pablo, our candidate

Saverio and our men from Orange all worked hand in hand with the vocation office to make this weekend meaningful to the youngsters. The youngsters were touched by everyone who in one way or the other interacted with them. One of the observation at the evaluation was that the presence of the young "salesians" (candidates, pre-novice, novice and post-novices) was in itself

very inspiring.

The weekend can be summed up with the words one of the youngster said: "It was amazing, and I am sincerely thinking of joining the Salesians." All were encouraged to go back and confide in their spiritual directors and continue this process of discernment.

From a website in Wales for prospective candidates discerning religious life.

Let the Spirit be your guide. Galatians 5:13-25

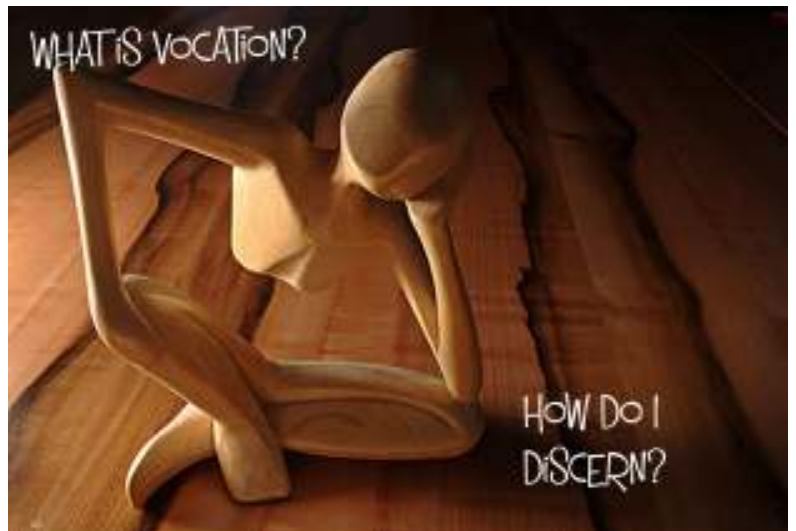
Please bring
the willingness to learn,
to hope,
to trust,
and to live on God's promises.

Good will is more essential than ability.

Please do not wait until you are a Saint before you try. Canonization is a life-project. If you are willing to be open to the Lord, his power will work in you.

The Lord makes his choice in his time. It makes no difference whether you are 17 or 70. When he calls; jump!

Do not let well-meaning people put you off. Very likely, when they fell in love they did not ask your advice. When the Lord looked lovingly at the rich young man, that look lingered on his face. Those who have met God's invitation will be able recognize its reflection in you. Religious life is not a career, it is an adventure in love.



Don Bosco

The Times, The Man, The Facts

Don Bosco's "Good Night"

One evening, saddened by a certain general unruliness among the boys at the Oratory he began as usual to say a few words after night prayers. There was a moment of silence as he ascended the little pulpit. He looked around and said: - I am not satisfied with you! Then without allowing them to kiss his hand (a customary mark of respect to a priest) he would slowly walk away toward the stairs leading to his room without saying word. Stifled sobs could be heard while tears ran down many faces as all went to bed sorrowful and pensive. To them, offending Don Bosco was the same as offending God. (cf EBM 4, 394)

Fr. Giovanni Gnolfo, in his study: *La "Buona Notte" di Don Bosco*, (the "Good Night" of Don Bosco) makes note that during the day there is life and activity but in the evening instead, is the time to sow in the minds of the young a thought that will bloom within during their sleep.

The "Good Night" of Don Bosco was a dear and sublime moment! It began with the hymn and night prayer and concluded with Don Bosco spurring the boys to reflection, to joy and to hope. He really looked forward to this evening encounter with his entire Valdocco community. Fr. Lemoyne states that its origin goes back to Mamma Margaret. When she tucked into bed that first orphan of Valsesia she gave him some advice. From there this beautiful practice of saying a few words to the youngsters before sending them to sleep had gone on to all the Salesian institutions (cf. EBM, 141-142).

Characteristics of the "Good Night"

A characteristic of the "Good Night" of Don Bosco was what he spoke about: an actual fact, something real that had taken place and that created a certain feeling of suspense, arousing in his listeners some questions. At times he acted out the event to everyone's amusement.

Other characteristics are the varied issues that he treated with brevity so as to avoid monotony and consequent boredom in his listeners. However, Don Bosco was not always brief, especially when he narrated his famous dreams or of the trips he had just returned from. Normally his little talk lasted just a few minutes. In short, he never preached nor did he treat on academic subjects but said just a few affectionate words like a good father to his children before sending them to bed.

There were some exceptions to the rule that naturally created a great impression, such as what happened on the evening of 16th September 1867. After the superiors had tried every means to correct some youngsters who were incorrigible and a source of scandal to their companions. Don Bosco ascended the little pulpit and began with a quotation from the Gospel. He then recounted the serious warnings given repeatedly to those who were causing scandal and all they had benefited from this institution, the fatherly affection that they were surrounded with and then he went on:

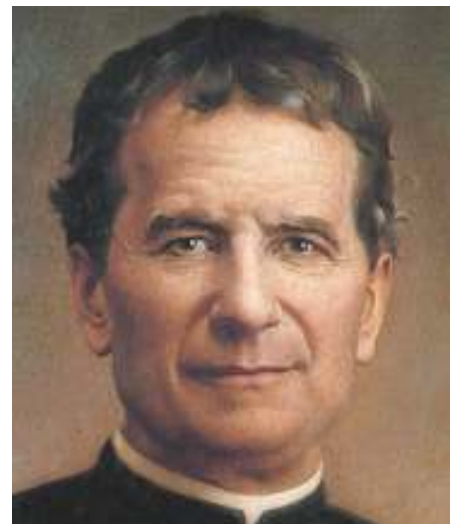
"These people think they are not known but I know who they are and I could name them publicly. If I don't name them, you will think I don't really know them... So to name: You are A... (he would say the full name) a wolf who roams among his companions and draws them away from the superior, ridiculing their advice... You are B... a thief who steals the innocence of his companions... You are C... a murderer who has certain pamphlets, certain books, stealing Mary's children from her side... You are D... a demon who spoils his companions by sneering at the sacraments and preventing them from frequenting them." The following morning they were ordered to leave the house. Those who remained changed their lives. The "good father" Don Bosco was truly a gentleman! And exceptions of this kind confirm the rule of his "Good Night."

The Key To morality

It was not for nothing that one day in 1875 Don Bosco surprised everybody saying that there should never be any trouble at the Oratory such as sometimes occurred in other schools where it was often impossible to control the boys. But these visitors did not know the secrets of the Oratory and among them was this:

"Another powerful means of persuasion, exercising a good influence over the boys, was the short fatherly talks addressed to them every evening after prayers. These short talks forestalled any trouble" (EBM 11, 203-204).

And in his precious document *The Preventive System in the Education of the Young* he wrote that the "Good Night" by the director of the House was meant to be "the key to morality, the smooth running and of a successful education" (cf. *The Constitutions of the Society of St. Francis of Sales*). Don Bosco trained his boys to live between two solemn moments in their day and they were far apart. In the morning it was the Eucharist, and in the evening the "evening prayer" and the "Good Night" so that while they retired they could reflect and be inspired.



DIACONAL ORDINATION

Cl. Michael Leschinsky SDB

MAY 22, 2010 @ 10.00 am
at: Marian Shrine, Stony Point, NY

www.salesianvocation.com

Salesians of Don Bosco, 315 Self Place, South Orange, NJ 07079. Ph: (973) 761 0201

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Mother who came down from heaven
Help us we implore you.
Loving mother,
Mother of mercy,
Mary, virgin and mother,
Who pray and who
invite us to pray,
Be our faithful help,
Our comfort and refuge.

You were chosen
from among women
Chosen by the Father,
We implore you, assist us
Who suffer and are forsaken,
Turn to us, O Blessed one,
Save your people,
Bless your children!

We invoke you
in times of pain,
In times of discouragement,
In times when darkness
covers the earth,
Help us O good mother,
Wrap us in your mantle,
Show us your Son
our salvation
Who died for us.

Hold up the cross
on which he died.
Let it be a torch
in the darkness
That envelops mankind.
May his blood
And your tears be the protection
For all humanity.
O glorious Virgin,

May our supplications
And our prayers
Rise to God
Our Almighty Father.
That the world He created
May return to peace
With his love
And his blessing. (Fidelio)

