



acts

of the general council

year XC

january-march 2009

N. 403

official organ
of animation
and communication
for the
salesian congregation

Direzione Generale
Opere don Bosco
Roma

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**of the General Council
of the Salesian Society
of St John Bosco**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ANIMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

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THE SALESIAN FAMILY YESTERDAY AND TODAY

STRENNA 2009

150th anniversary of the Founding of the Salesian Congregation

INTRODUCTION – Two events coming together – 1. The Salesian Family yesterday. 1.1 The “seed” of the charism. 1.2 The seed under the snow. 1.3 The tree and the wood: a luxuriant growth. – **2. In the third millennium: today and tomorrow.** 2.1 On the path of communion. 2.2 Communion in and for the mission. 2.3 Some requirements to continue the journey. – **3. Lines for the future.** 3.1 Synergy in the mission. 3.2 The resources. 3.3 Some areas of collaboration: *the young - vocations - the Missions - the Salesian Bulletin*. 3.4 Visibility in the Church of the Salesian presence as a “Movement.” 3.5 A culture of the Salesian Family. – **4. Suggestions to make the Strenna concrete.** 4.1 *Collaborating together in the formation and the deepening of the charismatic mentality.* 4.2 *Promoting a shared commitment.* 4.3 *An instrument of communion: the local and Provincial Consultative Committee of the Salesian Family.* 4.4 *Some areas of net-working to be promoted and developed.* – **Conclusion.** *The prayer of the Salesian Family. - A parable: THE FIR-TREES.*

Rome, 25 December 2008

Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord

My Dear Confreres,

On such a beautiful and meaningful day as the Birth of the Lord I am writing to you sending my best wishes that the Father may enrichen you with all those gifts with which He wished to endow us in the Incarnation of His Son: especially Himself, since Jesus came to give us God, and with Him His love, His joy, peace, light, truth and life.

Since I last wrote to you to present the *Programme of animation and government for the six-year period 2008-2014*, the world panorama has changed profoundly, with a financial and economic crisis without precedent, which is raising questions about the western model of society. In fact, at this stage it is clear that the cause of the financial crisis is to be found not only in the lack of legal transparency and responsibility, but in an erroneous set of values on which attempts are being made to build society. Today's crisis is being compared in economic terms with the great depression of the '30s; however, it seems

true that the situation is much more serious, since this time it is accompanied by a profound spiritual crisis.

Rightly, at World Youth Day Benedict XVI exhorted the young people to be that «new generation of Christians called to help build a world in which God's gift of life is welcomed, respected and cherished... building a future of hope for all humanity»; and he added: «The world needs this renewal! In so many of our societies, side by side with material prosperity, a spiritual desert is spreading: an interior emptiness, an unnamed fear, a quiet sense of despair. How many of our contemporaries have built broken and empty cisterns (cf. *Jer* 2:13) in a desperate search for meaning – the ultimate meaning that only love can give? This is the great and liberating gift which the Gospel brings: it reveals our dignity as men and women created in the image and likeness of God. It reveals humanity's sublime calling, which is to find fulfilment in love. It discloses the truth about man and the truth about life».¹ What is especially of great concern for us is the extremely precarious state in which the large majority of people are living, and also the constant increase in the lack of a future for the young.

To this dramatic economic situation which is forcing so many men and women to live with insecurity, without work, and all that this implies, sometimes simply to survive, is added the new wave of violence, including the massacres in progress in the region of Goma with millions of people displaced. I have to say I felt very proud of the confreres and the volunteers who remained at their posts to continue to defend and to welcome as many refugees as possible. This tragic situation has given rise to another initiative, called "Emergency Congo", which has brought together the two Unions of Male and Female Superiors General to respond in various ways. I hope that the International organisations will finally decide to intervene to ensure the rights of all the people in that area so afflicted.

¹ Benedict XVI, Homily at the Mass for WYD (Sydney 20.07.2008).

During these months in addition to our ordinary family events there have been a number of others in which I have been able to take part: the General Chapter of our Sisters the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians which was held between 8 September and 15 November, with the theme "*Called to be signs of God's foreseeing love*"; the *Harambée* and the Missionary Departure Ceremony, on Sunday 28 September, on which occasion I issued the challenge of preparing an extraordinary missionary expedition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Founding of the Salesian Congregation; the Synod of Bishops on "The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church," between 5 and 26 October; the visit to the Bilbao Province on the occasion of the centenary of the presence of the Salesians in Santander; the Plenary Session of the Congregation and then the Congress of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; the six-monthly General Assembly of the Union of Male Superiors General; the Meeting of the Provincials of Europe, between 28 and 30 November, to work on the "Project for Europe." Finally we have resumed the ordinary activities of the Council with the winter plenary session, and to start the course for new Provincials.

My participation in the *General Chapter of the FMA* as Rector Major was intense and I hope also of significance. It began with the preaching of the Retreat at Mornesè; continued with the Mass and participation in the opening ceremony in the FMA Generalate in Rome; then with the visit to Mother Yvonne Reungoat, to offer best wishes after her election as the new Superior General, together with all her Council; and concluded with the closing Mass. For me it was not only a formal occasion as Successor of Don Bosco, our common Founder, but especially one of affection, esteem and closeness to this Institute, with which we are so closely united, also through the Salesian Sisters whom we have met in the course of our Salesian life, and who have been true sisters to us. This is certainly in harmony with the subject of this year's Strenna, which in-

vites us to rediscover what Don Bosco wanted: to found a family. This is our treasure which we are living with a spirit of communion that is real, deep and convinced. All of this at the service of the young for their salvation. This also gives meaning to our lives, the meaning we live in a mission that is shared, important, committed. It is my hope that in addition to the beautiful spiritual and charismatic experience lived by the Chapter members, the GCXXII may represent for the whole Institute a time of profound renewal, even more so since our Sisters wanted to get to the heart of things taking as their theme the first article of their Constitutions, so as to be able to respond to the current expectations regarding feminine consecrated life and to the new requirements of the mission.

The *Synod* with the theme "*The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church*", in the course of the Pauline Year, was for me a beautiful and stimulating experience. Every Synodal Assembly is a powerful experience of ecclesial communion, presided over by the Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ and the Successor of the Apostle Peter, with the participation of Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops, representatives of the Curia and of the Bishops' Conferences, to whom are added ten Superiors General, as well as invited guests and the experts. This Assembly was even more significant because at the centre of attention was that which illuminates and guides the Church: the Word of God, who is Christ in person. Indeed I would dare to suggest that the greatest insistence throughout the Synod was precisely the affirmation that the reading of the Sacred Scripture is authentic, full when it leads to a personal encounter with Christ today, and therefore, the great challenge is that of knowing how to pass "from the words to the Word," from the Scriptures to the Word of God! This is only possible when there is a prayerful reading of the Word of God, open to what the Spirit is saying to his Church.

The Assembly which began on 5 October with the opening Mass in the Basilica of Saint Paul outside the walls and ended on 26 October with the closing Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica,

was not organised as an intellectual Congress on an academic or pastoral subject to be discussed but as an experience of a religious listening to the Word, which was evident from the liturgy (masses, the prayer of the office of Terce with the respective Lectio, and Vespers in the Sistine Chapel at which His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I took part) and in the procedure of the Synod itself.

I think the most precious fruit was the new awareness that the priority role of the Church and therefore of the Congregation at the beginning of this millennium is above all to nourish itself with the Word of God, for it to be effective in the task of the new evangelisation, of the proclamation of the Gospel in our days. I shall mention some practical consequences for our consecrated life and mission which you can find in some of the *Propositiones* approved and presented to the Holy Father: in the first place what is said in *Propositio* n. 24: the Word of God and consecrated life; *Propositio* n. 31 on the Word of God and formation; *Propositio* n. 14 on the Word of God and the Liturgy; *Propositio* n. 22 on the prayerful reading of the Bible; *Propositio* n. 23 on Catechesis and Sacred Scripture; *Propositio* n. 25 on the study of the Scriptures.

From this point of view the Message of the Synod, developed according to four icons – the *Voice* of the Word: Revelation; the *Face* of the Word: Jesus Christ; the *Home* of the Word: the Church; the *Path* of the Word: the Mission – is very expressive both for one's own life and for pastoral action, and I cannot but recommend to you its attentive reading and meditation.

Propositio n. 2, in particular, expresses a wish that is in harmony with the Pauline Year and with Key Issue 2 of the GC26, that is "The urgent need to evangelise". I make it my own on behalf of all of us, dear confreres: «This Synod Assembly expresses the hope that all the faithful may grow in knowledge of the mystery of Christ, the only saviour and mediator between God and men (cf. *1Tim* 2,5; *Heb* 9,15), and the

Church, renewed by religiously listening to the Word of God may enter into a new missionary season, proclaiming the Good News to all mankind».

The Meeting of the Provincials of Europe, which took place at the Generalate between 28 and 30 November, served to define the contents and the process of the "Project for Europe", in obedience to the lines of action of the GC26. As was said right from the beginning, it is not a question of salvaging in a continent with an unstoppable process of the ageing of the personnel, with a very limited influx of vocations and with an increasing number of lay people who are managing our works; it is not even a question of maintaining structures nor of repeating the model used in the "Project for Africa". What one wants to do, as the General Chapter decided, is to "re-launch the Salesian charism in Europe" (n. 108), to plan for a renewed Salesian presence in a context characterised on the one hand, by great prosperity, by marvellous scientific and technological development, by a powerful social sensibility, and, on the other by an oppressive secularism, by a relativism and nihilism which has become "a disturbing guest," and by an uncontrollable flood of immigrants.

This particular situation is first of all a challenge to the capacity of the confreres in Europe to re-vitalise the charism and to make it alive in a continent more than ever in need of God, of Christ and his Gospel; but it also requires the intervention of the whole Congregation, convinced that the Europe of today and of tomorrow is still a place for the Salesian charism, with the presence of the young especially the poorest and abandoned, with a need for an education able to produce a new culture to give a soul to this continent so rich in humanism and poor regarding its future since it is closed to transcendence. If in the past thousands of Salesian confreres from the different countries of Europe have gone out to the missions, nowadays Europe – as in fact the whole world – has itself become mission territory and needs apostles to bring a new message, one of good news that gives real meaning to life.

Finally on 18 December we began the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation. I have already written a letter introducing this very significant year with some precise proposals and suggesting the attitudes with which to live it, to which have been added a series of helps for celebrations throughout the whole year so as to conclude this year of grace with the renewal of our Religious Profession, making our own the commitment of the first group who gathered in Don Bosco's room on 18 December 1859, began our Society of Saint Francis of Sales. To this event, in the light of the Word of God, in the Pauline year, I should like to devote my next circular letter; and so, for the present, I shall limit myself to recalling what I wrote in the letter introducing this Jubilee. This also was the inspiration for the subject of the 2009 Strenna, which ought to mean for everyone, but especially for us Sons of Don Bosco, a profound transformation, a change of mentality in the way of understanding and living the Salesian Family, of which we are fundamental founding members and, at the same time, those mainly responsible for its animation.

Here then is the commentary on the Strenna 2009:

***The Salesian Family yesterday and today:
the seed has become a tree and the tree a wood***

«The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches» (Mt 13,31-32).

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Salesian Family,

I greet you with the heart of Don Bosco, from whose zeal and pastoral charity was born our spiritual and apostolic family. We are the most beautiful and rich fruit of his total giving of himself to God and of his passion to see young people - especially those who were the poorest the most needy and at risk - achieve the fulness of life in Christ.

After the Strennas of the last three years so propositive and demanding, here I am once again offering you one even more urgent, demanding and promising. It is all to do with our identity and our mission. In fact it is on that that our more visible presence in the Church and in society depends, and our more effective activity in facing up to the great challenges of today's world.

2009 ought to help us to make ever more actual Don Bosco's conviction that the education of the young requires a large network of people dedicated to them and a determined synergy in the efforts made to reach the goals that the young expect and to be significant for society. Therefore in Don Bosco's name I ask you:

**“Let us commit ourselves to making
the Salesian Family
a vast movement of persons
for the salvation of the young.”**

Two events coming together

There are two events which justify the choice of this theme for the 2009 Strenna: the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Salesian Society and the preparations for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco (1815-2015). With the celebration of the first we begin the preparations for the second. We do so recalling the words of John Paul II for the Jubilee of the year 2000: «Every religious family will live the Jubilee well by returning with purity of heart to the spirit of the Founder!»

For us therefore, this jubilee celebration indicates our renewed and creative fidelity to Don Bosco, to his spirituality, to his mission. There will be a “Salesian Holy Year”, during which we are called to relive with clarity and communicate with enthusiasm the life experiences, the ways of doing things, the features of the spirit which guided Don Bosco, and the first among many others, Mother Mazzarello to holiness.

In this, we cannot fail to remember what was Don Bosco's experience. First of all he consecrated himself personally body and soul to the salvation of the young people he saw wandering in the streets; then he invited some people to share in his apostolic work, giving rise to a kind of first form of the 'Salesian Family'. But, after having seen that many left him entirely on his own, or almost, he gathered around him a group of young men and educated them to form with him a religious family: and so the Salesians were born; afterwards other groups followed, organised on different levels but with the same apostolic purpose. This brief "historical" survey throws light on what the Salesian Family is and on its relationship with the fundamental nucleus, the consecrated persons – SDB and FMA –, whose heart and driving force, as for that matter that of the whole Salesian Family, is the passion of "Da mihi animas, cetera tolle". This sums up the spirit that ought to characterise all the members and groups of the Salesian Family.

It seems natural to me that the more complete the consecration the greater the responsibility for animation. This conviction was confirmed for us by the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, in his Address at the Audience given to the Chapter members on 31 March 2008: «Don Bosco wanted the choice of consecrated life to guarantee the continuity of his charism in the Church. Today too, the Salesian movement can only grow in fidelity to its charism if a strong and vital nucleus of consecrated people continues to form its core.»

1. The Salesian Family yesterday

The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Salesian Society is a special occasion on which to reflect on Don Bosco's original idea and on the concrete founding of the first groups, raised up and cultivated by him: the Salesians of Don Bosco,

the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the Association of the Salesians-Cooperators, the Association of Mary Help of Christians.

So, taking my cue from the parable Jesus used to explain the Kingdom of heaven and its dynamics, I would dare to say that the seed sown by Don Bosco has grown and become a tree strong and rich in foliage, a real gift from God to the Church and to the world. In fact, the Salesian Family has experienced a veritable spring time. United now with the original groups, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit there are other groups who with their specific vocations have enriched the communion and extended the Salesian mission.

Today everyone can see how the Salesian Family has grown, how the work completed and that we dream about have multiplied; the field of activity on behalf of so many young people and adults has spread without limits. For this we are grateful to the Lord and we accept our greater responsibility, precisely because, like every other vocation, this of the Salesian Family is at the service of the mission, in our case the salvation of youth, especially the poor, the abandoned, those in danger.

1.1 The “seed” of the charism

Don Bosco’s spirit, mentality, pastoral experience and view of the world and of the Church guided him towards some convictions and to some corresponding initiatives:

- *the universal mission of the Church*, to be taken up in a spirit of solidarity, to save the whole of man and all men. Within this mission his Sons and followers need to be characterised by a preference for the young, the poor, the peoples not yet evangelised;
- the usefulness, or rather the urgent impelling need to *become united spiritually* and to *form associations working together* in enterprises to achieve this end;

- the possibility that the spirit given to him could be lived in *different states of life* and, therefore through the coming together of “good people” contribute to the great mission of the Church, taking their place within it with the Salesian “priorities;”
- *the founding of the first groups*: spiritually united around the experience of the oratory as their mission, their style, their method and their spirit:
 - with different kinds of links with the Salesian Congregation (the original nucleus),
 - with different forms of association,
 - with different levels of public “Christian” commitment as the requirement for belonging.
- The *historic role* of the SDB, the FMA, the Cooperators.

1.2 *The seed under the snow: silent growth*

These intuitions **have developed** according to the understanding of them that the followers of Don Bosco were able to have in the context of a certain view of the Church and of its life. This development can be seen:

- in the permanence and expansion of the groups founded by Don Bosco;
- in the updating and periodic revision of the organisational and spiritual elements;
- in the sense of the vital relationships that these groups maintain among themselves.

In the meantime **other groups** have arisen in the different continents with analogous characteristics, because they were founded by Salesians.

Among these is certainly to be numbered the group of the Volunteers of Don Bosco, the translation of the Salesian spirit into consecrated secularity, which was also a novelty in the Church.

The new conditions created by the Second Vatican Council (the Church as communion, the renewal of the Institutes of Consecrated Life, a return to the original charism, emergence of the role of the laity) led to the discovery and the identification of the character of the charismatic “family” which the constellation of the groups that arise could have, and also to the *formulation* of practical guidelines in this regard: communication between the groups, expressions of communion, the animating role of the Salesians, the Rector Major as the central point of reference, common elements of spirituality.

This new way of thinking, however, still needs to pass *from theory to the lived practice* of each group and of each individual member of the groups, so that the Salesian Family may be lived as a dimension of their vocation. “Without you we are no longer ourselves!”

1.3 The tree and the wood: a luxuriant growth

Some facts have accompanied and sustained the development of the Family:

- Formal recognition of their *belonging* has been requested and publicly granted to groups that have arisen after the death of Don Bosco. Today, altogether there are twenty three groups officially recognised:
 1. The Society of St Francis of Sales (Salesians of Don Bosco);
 2. The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians;
 3. The Association of the Salesians-Cooperators;
 4. The Association of the Past-Pupils of Don Bosco;
 5. The Association of the Past-Pupils of the FMA;
 6. The Association of the Volunteers of Don Bosco;
 7. Daughters of Sacred Heart;
 8. Salesian Oblates of the Sacred Heart;
 9. Apostles of the Holy Family;
 10. Caritas Sisters of Miyazaki;

11. Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians;
12. Daughters of the Divine Saviour;
13. Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary;
14. Sisters of Jesus the Adolescent;
15. Salesian Women's Association;
16. Association of Mary Help of Christians;
17. Catechists Sisters of Mary Immaculate Help of Christians;
18. Daughters of the Queenship of Mary Immaculate;
19. Volunteers with Don Bosco;
20. Witnesses of the Risen Lord TR 2000;
21. Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel;
22. Congregation of Sisters of the Resurrection;
23. Sisters Announcers of the Lord.

- There are also *other groups* which are waiting for the conditions to be fulfilled for them to be formally recognised as members of the Salesian Family; in the meantime the soil is being cultivated in which other groups could also emerge.
- The Salesian Family has reflected a great deal on its own *identity* (cf. AGC 358), on those elements which regard its real nature and unity, on its organisation in terms of communication (cf. *Common Identity Card* and *Common Mission Statement*).
- *Each group* has sought to strengthen itself with Statutes or Regulations of Life, guidelines for the formation of the members, a synthesis of its own specific Salesian spirituality, and committing itself to improve its organisation and to find ways or opportunities for growth and development.
- A *common effort* has been made to examine further possibilities and to define the forms of communion between them all; clear reference has been made, firstly to the Common Identity Card and then to the Common Mission Statement which need to continue to be distributed, studied and put into practice.

2. In the third millennium: today and tomorrow

2.1 *On the path of communion*

The Church has entered a *new phase of communion*, marked by the continental Synods and those of the whole Church, by ecumenical dialogue, the inter-religious movement, by global solidarity, by the commitment to reconciliation.

Characteristics of this communion are:

- a return to basics,
- a greater expansion,
- a better understanding of its requirements,
- greater visibility,
- greater apostolic and missionary activity,
- its reference to the mission: “communion begets communion: essentially it is likened to a mission on behalf of communion.” (*ChL* 32).

Even though our Family is a prevalently apostolic one, being a *family* it necessarily has its roots in the mystery of the Trinity, the origin, model and goal of every family. Contemplating God-Love, God-Communion, God-Family, we understand what for us is the meaning of the mission (“to be signs and bearers of the love of God”), of the spirituality of communion, of being family.

The *Father* asks us to have hearts that are wide so that as members and groups of the Salesian Family, we welcome and recognise each other as brothers and sisters, men and women loved by Him: personally called by Him to work in his field for the same reason. The pettiness of the human heart may put up barriers, create distance and separate, – as among the Apostles – seek the first place, to the detriment of the Kingdom. Sometimes it is our fears or reservations about unity with others that produce similar effects. The heart, like that of the Father, means a real and deep affection for the young and for those

who spend their lives for them. It is expressed in cordiality, appreciation of each and everyone, gratitude for what each one can and manages to do.

The *Holy Spirit* shows us a second attitude which is required to build up a family: the grateful and joyful acceptance of diversity. Manifestations of the Spirit are the many languages, the different charisms, the various members of the one body. There are hundreds of millions of men and women, each one formed individually as a child of God. The Spirit doesn't repeat Himself, He doesn't produce a series.

Don Bosco was a master in making unity flower from a diversity of different types and temperaments, of conditions and capabilities. In his day this sensitivity was less common. Nowadays on the other hand, diversity presents an educational and pastoral challenge to people living together, to the witness of the Church and to the Salesian Family.

Diversity means an abundance of relationships, a variety of strengths, a wealth of opportunities and therefore unlimited fruitfulness. What an incomparable possibility this offers for dialogue, for sharing spiritual and educational experiences in the Salesian Family for men and women, consecrated and lay people, in their particular state of husband, wife, child, young adult, elderly, workers, professionals or students, people from a variety of races and cultures, healthy or sick, saints and sinners!

Certainly, unity in diversity is not in itself natural; but precisely so that we might have the strength to overcome the instinct for self-affirmation, Jesus prayed: "That they may be one!" (cf. *Jn* 17,11).

Jesus, the Lord, the Son who made himself our travelling companion, who reconciles all things, those in heaven and those on earth (cf. *Col* 1,20), recapitulating them in God, indicates to us a third attitude: the willingness to walk together

towards a shared goal, to stand side by side in a place that is anything but ethereal, the Kingdom; to form a recognisable community of disciples who together respond to his command: «Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation» (*Mk* 16,15).

Here then the three indispensable attitudes in order to grow in communion: breadth of heart, acceptance of diversity, the willingness to walk together towards a shared goal.

2.2 Communion in and for the mission

“Communion begets communion: essentially it is likened to a mission on behalf of communion.” (*ChL* 32). Now in the third millennium our main aim is to express, in a more evident way, *communion in the mission*, taking into account the following criteria:

- According to the *basic principles of the beginning* and of the development of the Salesian Family:

One thing has been a constant, as a precious heritage: a passion for education, in particular that of the poorest young people, whom we help to become aware of their own dignity as individuals, of the value and the potential their lives have for God and for the world.

“*Da mihi animas*”! It is the motto of Don Bosco that we make our own! We look at the young and their spiritual dimension, and we want to concern ourselves with them in order to re-awaken in them the vocation to be children of God and to help them to achieve this following the Preventive System, that is through reason, religion and loving kindness. This implies a detachment from all that could take us away from our commitment to God and to the young. This is the meaning of “*cetera tolle*”, which is the second part of our motto.

- In conformity with the conditions of the *world of today*:

The world unified by communication, characterised by complexity, by the transversal nature of many “causes”, by the possibility of net-works, offers a new setting for the Christian, promotional, educational, youth mission,

The Salesian Family together will try to give weight to its presence in society and make its educational activity count: there is the youth problem, there is life to be safeguarded, there is poverty in its various forms to be tackled; there is peace to be promoted; there are human rights that are declared to be but not put into effect; there of Jesus to be made known.

- As the fruit of the more recent *Strennas*:

The *Strennas* of these last few years have highlighted the educational emergency, efforts on behalf of the family, the promotion of life, a preferential option for the poor, globalised solidarity, the new evangelisation.

This new phase of the Salesian Family will be marked by an ardent and tireless charity, full of imagination and generosity: that which made Don Bosco an image of Jesus the Good Shepherd, recognised by the young and the humble people of his time. We, the Salesian Family are being called today, in the XXI century, to model our hearts, poor and sometimes sinful, on that of Jesus in whom God showed Himself to the world as the One who gives life, so that man may be happy and have life abundantly (cf. *Jn* 10,10).

2.3 Some requirements to continue the journey

There immediately emerge some requirements to continue the process of growth and reach the goal of communion in the mission that we have set ourselves:

- Examine further so as to understand better the *possible common field* and the working characteristics of the mission. All of this means looking, reflecting, discussing, studying and praying together so as to find the path to follow in a spirit of communion. It is the expression of love which the young are waiting for and of which they will certainly feel the effects and the benefit.
- Restoring *spirituality to the centre* as the stimulus to communion for the mission, is in conformity with current Church thinking and reflects today's religious experience and from it follows the urgent need for the formation of the members and the involvement of others.

Holiness: this is the source and the power which «inspired the start of a vast movement for persons who in different ways work for the salvation of the young» (C. SDB 5): the Salesian Family. One cannot possibly think that this is the result of organisation however perfect, or of subtle techniques for bringing people together. The Holy Spirit raised it up and it continues to live in the Spirit.

To this Family I make a pressing appeal to acquire a new way of thinking, to consider themselves and always to act as a Movement, with an intense spirit of communion (harmony), with a convinced desire for synergy (unity of intent), with a mature capacity for net-working (unity in planning). In the Regulations of the Salesians-Cooperators Don Bosco wrote: «At all times it was considered that union among good people was necessary in order to help one another to do good and to keep far away from evil... Weak forces when they are united become strong and if a piece of string is taken by itself it is easily broken but when three pieces are joined together it is more difficult to break.: *Vis unita fortior, funiculus triplex difficile rumpitur*». We must never forget that we have been founded by a Saint of social charity, Don Bosco (cf. *Deus Caritas Est* n. 40), who was aware, however, that education and

pastoral work needs to be a cooperative form of charity, for which the Holy Spirit raises up charisms.

- Ensuring that the groups are *able to be autonomous* in their own development, in the formation of their members, in their apostolic initiatives.
- Understanding and experimenting with *flexible forms of collaboration*: “thinking globally, acting locally.”
- Examining further the Salesian experience as expressed in *lay terms*.

3. Lines for the future

The fruit of this Strenna therefore ought to be a more evidently combined effort and one that is more practical as regards the mission.

There are many ideas to be weighed up, taking into account the way life develops and certain priorities. The *Common Identity Card* and the *Common Mission Statement* of the Salesian Family are points of reference for this. Whereas the first carefully indicates our shared DNA, that is those elements which are the characteristics of our Salesian charismatic identity, the second represents a declaration of intent and guidelines. The purpose of each is, in the first place, to create an awareness, to form a way of thinking, to give rise to a “culture of the Salesian Family.” Both of them should lead each member of the different groups to feel that without the others they would not be what they ought to be, and consequently should produce synergies which are varied, multiple and not all merely formal. I hope that one fruit of this Strenna may be a *Charter of spirituality*, which I have several times spoken about. Spirituality is the fundamental motivation and the most powerful driving force of every member of the Salesian Family, that which can ensure greater effectiveness and impact in educational and evangelising activity.

3.1 Synergy in the mission

Reference to the *Common Identity Card* and *Common Mission Statement* offers us the opportunity to reflect on possible forms of synergy in the mission. Above all we need to bear in mind that we already have a common mission and that we are carrying it out. It is the mission inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit in different services and initiatives, in different ways of acting, but converging in aims, content and method as we can read in all the constitutions, regulations or statutes of the various groups. This has been the work of the Holy Spirit, when from the Salesian trunk He has made bud and grow a new branch with its specific characteristics. This ought to make us understand that the first requirement for communion and the common mission is that each group fulfils with the greatest possible effort its own vocation and mission, that it gives them continuing vitality with fidelity and creativity. The Spirit has already arranged us into men and women, consecrated and lay, present among the young, among the sick, among the peoples to be evangelised, etc. If each group, with the spirit and the aims which are expressed in its own statutes which are in harmony with Salesian spirituality, fulfils this purpose, we already have the Salesian mission being fulfilled.

The first great help and the best way to implement the *Common Identity Card* and *Common Mission Statement* is therefore the awareness of the complementary nature of the service of a great mission, which ought to be followed, on the part of each group, by an openness and readiness to support and sustain the common mission.

The times we are living in, however, permit and indeed demand new expressions of the common mission. Nowadays as we have emphasised in the Strennas in recent years, there are transversal causes (such as the family, life, education, children's rights, the problem of peace, the question of women, safeguarding the environment) that can see us involved to-

gether. Above all, there is global solidarity which is being expressed in various forms of cooperation, public declarations, pressure exerted on the organisations which direct the lives of the nations and of the world. And there are also new possibilities for net-working and communication, and this leads to different forms of involvement and to the activation of synergy that previously were not possible. We want to exploit the still unexplored possibilities in the Salesian mission and seize the opportunities which our own times offer us, bringing together acquired skills and innovative creativity.

I am convinced that the Salesian Family will make its presence felt in the Church in a credible manner and will be fruitful for the young pastorally, spiritually and vocationally, if we succeed in working for them together as a real Movement. We should not forget that the Movement is characterised by some key ideas and a common spirit. More than in a statute, it is in a spirit and in a praxis that the members of the different groups in a movement are to be found and converge. It is a belonging that is more vital than formal! From this point of view the Salesian Movement is much bigger than the Salesian Family, because it also includes the young themselves, their parents, our collaborators, the volunteers, those sympathetic to the Salesian work, the benefactors, also non-Christians, as happens in many parts of the world, especially in Asia, but not only there. It is a question of people who in some partial way share the mission or the Salesian charism. They are the "Friends of Don Bosco". It is within such a great Movement that the Salesian Family is to be found as its animating nucleus.

3.2 The resources

On what resources can we count?

- In the first place we concentrate on the formation of people and on the strengthening of the communities or groups.

- However, we also need to develop and acquire a common charismatic culture or mentality for which the *Common Identity Card* and the *Common Mission Statement* play their part.
- Organisational support is certainly useful, but it only has a subsidiary value, and has to be adapted to the demands and the concrete situations.

We continue to believe therefore that the Salesian Family is still today, first of all, a charismatic entity, whose great resources are the Spirit and its creativity; all of this resting on an adequate organisational structure.

As regards the mission, there is still another aspect to consider. We say we are co-responsible in the mission. However, we need to bear in mind that the mission, which refers to different various fields (areas, dimensions), with common aims and spirit, does not necessarily imply co-responsibility in every single initiative or in each individual place. As one gradually comes down from the vision of the great idea of the mission to its practical application, one will see whether there are two-sided or three-sided forms of collaboration without tying ourselves down *a priori* to any kind of global structure which in advance guides the whole. Having a clear aim and following the way that life and circumstances proceed is what is best, as we have repeated during the previous six-year period about thinking globally and acting locally, giving vital energy to the cells, to the essential organs, to the intermediate organs, and finally to the whole structure.

3.3 Some areas of collaboration

The Young

We are all trying to work with the largest number of young people in various enterprises. We note that among young people

youth groups are being established, especially in recent times, which want to follow a process of human development and growth in the faith in conformity with the Preventive System, which – as we know – is not only a methodology but also a way of understanding the contents. In these leaders are being formed, who are called animators, guides, etc. In particular the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) is being consolidated. In this various youth groups which start and develop in the Salesian Family are coming together and want to form part of it. This is a possibility open to all. So far in the animation of the SYM there has been very good collaboration between the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. I would hope that in the future there would also be greater involvement on the part of the Salesians-Cooperators and the Past Pupils in promoting the SYM among their own youth groups.

This too is something that has been agreed among the branches of the Salesian Families that are closer to each other and more to be found in the youth field. FMA and SDB, in fact, already have a long experience, many works and organisations for active animation over a long period of time. But participation is open to all the others. Participation comes starting from the common ground established at each meeting or event.

For the youth groups it is useful to have a common basis for human formation, for the faith journey and for the vocational invitation, because all these reflect Don Bosco's view of education.

Therefore there are forms of synergy already in existence with the possibility of their being opened up to others in the Salesian Youth Movement, which already thinks of itself in worldwide terms. Going round the Congregation I have seen how the message of the Rector Major sent every year from Turin on the occasion of the Feast of Don Bosco, draws together on a world scale the groups that are to be found in the different continents. Therefore there is an opportunity when

we can educate the young people too for future forms of synergy and future solidarity.

The success of the World Youth Days also demonstrates this, as, in spite of distance and expense, they manage to bring young people together from all parts of the world belonging to diocesan groups, groups animated by religious institutes by movements, or simply those who identify themselves with that kind of event.

Vocations

Linked to the question of the SYM there is that of vocation promotion, of vocational guidance and of our witness. We know that Don Bosco, who had a great esteem for lay people, rejoiced when he was able to give to the Church priests and religious. If it is true, in fact, that all have an equal dignity and receive an equal call to holiness, it is also true that in the temporal dynamic of the Kingdom of God there are vocations which have a special role in the Church community. So it is important that we are also united in this aim. Providing for our groups or for our young people a process of human and Christian formation we propose to them a variety of vocations, pointing out the greater commitment of the "*sequela Christi*" that some vocations represent.

The purpose of our youth groups, formed by the particular branches of the Family is not a matter of rearing "chicks" for one's own Association. Our purpose is Christian education and guidance in their lives for young people. We have to know how to bring young people to hear the voice of Christ telling them that within the various aspects of the Kingdom there are some vocations of greater commitment. We need to be able to evoke in the young the desire for formation and an openness; to be capable of guiding them towards vocations of service and of great significance (and I would include here voluntary service), all of them as part of the Kingdom.

The Missions

A third field in which we are already collaborating, a field where current solidarity and cooperation can expand offering new possibilities is that of mission awareness. In the last missionary expeditions there has been the consolidation side by side with the religious of the presence of lay people, individuals, couples and even whole families. It is a beautiful thing to see how within the Salesian Family there are groups which include the missionary dimension even in their name.

Nevertheless, a missionary spirit has different forms of expression and of initiatives especially in our own days when there is talk about globalised solidarity. There are new possibilities for missionary involvement. There is the possibility of a personal presence, of twinning arrangements and of long-distance support in various ways. Considering the differences in different parts of the world I think what a good thing it would be if there were to be a net-work of twinning arrangements able to channel resources to respond to the various needs; and if, where there are personnel available, there were to be the possibility of temporary or also long-term collaboration. This in the planning stage and afterwards for its implementation in synergy.

The Salesian Bulletin

There is a further area, very important, where we are already collaborating: this is the field of communication in the Church and in society. Each group has its means of internal communication which it then distributes outside the group. You know however that there is a magazine or means which represents us all and it is the Salesian Bulletin. We are saying that it is a means of communication for the Salesian Family, for the Salesian Movement and for the world-wide Salesian outlook, which presents the point of view of the Family about the world in which we are living, and for the world opens a window on to things Salesian.

It is true that the Bulletin is managed and kept going by the Salesian Congregation. It would be an un-necessary burden to try to create a huge totally representative organ. More space is being given to the Salesian Family within the editorial committee, and to the presentation of items about it rather than dividing up the pages which would not be appropriate. We all benefit from the image that the Bulletin manages to create.

3.4 Visibility in the Church of the Salesian presence as a "Movement"

It would be advantageous, through all the forms of synergy to be exercised, to always act more as a *Movement* and so to have a visible presence in society and in the Church. We have to overcome two very real dangers: on the one hand making too much of a clamour and on the other being unjustifiable absent. Rather than a great effort at propaganda or self promotion, it ought to be very clear that our being present in the local Church is in close support of the Bishop and the priests; we ought to show how we are capable of working for certain causes, making it clear that we are not only concerned with ourselves but with the church community, which in its turn is concerned with the salvation of the world.

3.5 A culture of the Salesian Family

So that the Family culture, that is the approach and the way of thinking of working together, may reach all the branches and the whole tree, it is essential that all the members of the individual groups become aware of their belonging to a vast Movement of persons, brought to birth from the apostolic heart of Don Bosco, and that they are ready for synergy, for convergence, for many different forms of collaboration that are flexible and can be brought up to date. We are not looking

at a huge organisation that will dictate or sanction from above the things to be done, but a strong spiritual impulse that is capable of revitalising the cells and organs so that these can create the forms of collaboration that are possible.

From this approach comes as the first task for everyone that of re-reading both the “Common Identity Card” and the “Common Mission Statement”. There will be found the main ideas to be handed on and the principle choices to be made.

Nevertheless, in addition to the study of these documents, it would be helpful for the different groups to share some experiences of being together, of spirituality, of fraternity, of collaboration. This will increase the levels of mutual trust, of appreciation of the possibilities that the charism and the Family of Don Bosco have. The goal to reach is always that of moving on from harmony to communion of intent, to collaboration and to co-responsibility in shared social and church projects in the local area.

4. Suggestions to make the Strenna concrete

Here are some steps to take so that the Salesian Family may really become a vast Movement at the service of the salvation of youth.

4.1 Collaborating together in the formation and the deepening of the charismatic mentality of the Salesian Family

To do this we will make efforts:

- to make the “*Common Identity Card*” and the “*Common Mission Statement*” the object of study and deeper reflection by each group of the Salesian Family, so as to make in all their members the Family culture and knowledge of the Movement grow;

- to share the conclusions of this study in the local and Provincial “Consultative Committees” of the Salesian Family and to choose as a consequence some lines of action in sharing and synergy at the service of the Salesian mission in their own area.

4.2 Promoting a shared commitment

Studying together among the different groups of the Salesian Family present in a given area, today’s youth situation, especially with regard to the major challenges of life, of the different forms of poverty, of evangelisation, of peace, of human rights... and seek:

- ways of improving the initiatives already in progress, through greater collaboration and net-working;
- new initiatives to be promoted with the specific contribution of various groups present.

4.3 An instrument of communion: the local and Provincial Consultative Committee of the Salesian Family

Give more weight to the local and Provincial Consultative Committees of the Salesian Family, seeking the most appropriate way for them to operate so that they may not only provide opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences but above all may be platforms

- for reflecting together on the challenges of the mission in their own areas and sharing some fundamental lines for a response which each group will make the effort to follow according to their own possibilities;
- for seeking ways of collaborating that are flexible and clearly presented in educational and evangelising projects especially at the service of the young.

4.4 Some areas of collaboration and net-working to be promoted and developed

- *The animation of the Salesian Youth Movement,*
 - developing in the various youth groups animated by the groups of the Salesian Family a commitment to involvement and being part of the Salesian Youth Movement;
 - being involved in the accompaniment of groups and of young people;
 - in the formation process of groups sharing a programme of education to the faith that may help them to discover and to follow their own apostolic vocation in the Church and in society.
- *The animation and promotion among young people and adults of Salesian social and missionary Voluntary service,* as a Salesian response to the great challenges of the world of youth nowadays, in particular poor youth and those at risk.
- *The promotion of vocations, priestly, religious and those of specially committed lay people, at the service of the Church and in particular in the Salesian Family, through:*
 - taking part in the vocational initiatives organised in the local Church;
 - the witness of one's own life lived as a vocation, and the presentation of the different vocations in the Church and in society, in a special way in the Salesian Family;
 - particular attention to and the accompaniment of young people in their lives as couples with appropriate initiatives;
 - the support given to families and parents in their educational role, organising schools for parents and groups of couples, etc.

Conclusion

I conclude with a prayer to Don Bosco, charismatic Father of the whole Salesian Family, composed by Fr Egidio Viganò. It seems to me to be more than ever appropriate since it is particularly focused and programmatic. And, as usual, with a story to illustrate the Strenna. Saint Paul – speaking about the Church – made use of the metaphor of the body which “is a unity although it has many parts - all the parts of the body, though many, still making up one single body” (1Cor 12,12). In speaking about the Salesian Family I have preferred to underline together with unity, to which the image of the body refers, the vitality, the dynamism that belongs to a movement, so I have used the image of the wood, also so as to keep to the initial parable about the seed that becomes a tree and the tree that becomes a wood.

Here is the **prayer** of the Salesian Family:

*Father and teacher of youth,
Saint John Bosco,
who docile to the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
bequeathed to the Salesian Family
the treasure of your special love
for “the small and the poor ones,”
teach us to be
each day for them
signs and bearers of the love of God,
cultivating in our souls
the same sentiments of Christ
the Good Shepherd.
Ask for all the members of your Family
a heart full of goodness,
constancy in work,
wisdom in discernment,
courage to bear witness
to a sense of the Church and to missionary generosity.*

*Obtain for us from the Lord
the grace to be faithful
to the special covenant
that the Lord has made with us,
and help us so that, guided by Mary,
we may follow with joy,
together with the young,
the path that leads to love.
Amen.*

And here is a *parable*:

THE FIR-TREES

The howling of the wolf ran like a shiver along the mountain side. A stag placidly grazing in the thick grass soft with dew took fright and careered off into the pine forest.

The stag's impressive antlers brushed against and shook the branches. A swollen and ripe cone detached itself from the branch of the fir-tree and rolled down the ridge, bounced on to a projecting rock and came to rest with a thud in a damp and well-placed depression.

A handful of seeds was thrown out of its comfortable abode and was scattered over the soil.

«Hurrah!» cried the seeds in unison. «The time has come!»

«We've done it! There aren't any squirrels or mice here, we're out of danger».

Enthusiastically they started to sprout in order to begin the mission that they nurtured in their little hearts and which is the task of every tree: to keep the sky attached to the earth. For this reason the trees put down deep roots into the earth and send up knotted branches to the sky. If it were not for the trees the sky would already have flown away.

So the seeds began to settle themselves into the soil, but they soon discovered that being so many created certain problems.

«Move over there a bit, please!»

«Watch out! You've put that shoot in my eye!»

And so on. However, by pushing and shoving all the seeds found a place where they could sprout.

All except one.

A splendid strong seed clearly made known his intentions: «You all seem to me an incompetent lot! Squeezed together as you are, you're grabbing each other's soil and you're going to grow stilted and stunted. I don't want to have anything to do with you. On my own I can become a tall, noble, imposing tree. On my own!»

With the help of the wind the seed managed to distance himself from his brothers and, on his own, to plant his roots on the mountain ridge.

After a time, thanks to the snow, the rain and the sun he became a magnificent young fir-tree which dominated the valley where his brothers had become a wood which offered shade and restful repose to travellers and to the mountain animals.

Even though there was still no shortage of problems.

«Stop it with those branches! You're making my pine needles fall off.»

«You're stealing my sun! Get further over there ...»

«Will you stop messing up my foliage?»

The solitary fir-tree looked at them ironically and proud. He had all the sun and the space he wanted.

But one night at the end of August, the stars and the moon disappeared under a avalanche of large threatening clouds. Whistling and whirling the wind released a series of ever-more violent gusts, until a devastating storm lashed the mountain.

The fir-trees in the wood clung to each other, trembling, but protecting and supporting each other.

When the storm ceased, the fir-trees were exhausted by their long struggle but they were safe.

All except one.

Of the proud solitary fir-tree all that remained was a sad splintered stump on the ridge of the mountain.

The following spring, the rays of the sun caressed the dozens of tender shoots which the evening breeze gently stroked. Among the branches of the fir-trees many birds and squirrels had found a hiding place and survived the winter, and at the foot of the strong trunks plants and flowers of a thousand colours were sprouting.

It was a gift, which, without intending to, the wind and the rain of the storm had made to the mountain.

My dear brothers and sisters, dear friends, it is my prayer that the year 2009 may be one full of graces for you, and I entrust to you the task of really making the Salesian Family a vast and generous movement of people for the salvation of the young.

Affectionately in Don Bosco,


Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva
Rector Major

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major

Below are some of the main events from the Rector Major's diary between December 2007 and November 2008

– **December 2007**

The Rector Major began the last three months of the six-year period preparing for the approaching 26th General Chapter as well as the imminent winter plenary session of the Council.

On the 3rd he had a meeting with His Eminence. Cardinal. Ivan Dias, and the following morning the 4th December the meetings of the General Council began.

On the 5th the memorial of Blessed Filippo Rinaldi, in the afternoon he presided at a meeting of the Academic Senate of the U.P.S.

Worthy of mention is the visit on the 6th by two young Salesian priests, brothers, from the Krakow Province, Fr Leszek and Fr Robert Kruczek, who brought the Rector Major an original painting of theirs of Don Rua.

On Saturday 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, after having presided in the morning at Concelebrated Mass, in the afternoon he left for

Verona. In the evening he visited the San Zeno community and the next day the parish of St. Dominic Savio and the Holy Cross where he presided at Mass and then in the afternoon he had a meeting with the confreres in the area. In the evening he took part in the Christmas Concert, organised on behalf of our missions in Sudan.

On his return to Rome, he took up again the meetings of the General Council. On the 11th after the session of the Council he went to the U.P.S. with most of the Councilors for a dinner in honour of Cardinal Raffaele Farina, former Rector Magnificus of the University.

On Friday morning the 14th he received the new Salesian bishop, Tirso Blanco, to whom the Holy Father has entrusted the diocese of Lwena in Angola. In the evening with other members of the Council in St Peter's Basilica he took part in the funeral of His Eminence Cardinal Alfons Maria Stickler and his burial in the Salesian cemetery of Saint Callixtus.

On Saturday morning 15th there was a meeting of the SDB-FMA General Councils and then one of

the World Council of the Salesians-Cooperators. The Rector Major also greeted the Presidential Committee of the Past Pupils who had come for the traditional exchange of good wishes.

On Thursday 20th, after the session of the General Council, the Rector Major, who was keeping his birthday, received a visit from the committee of the "Prime Time Promotions" who had given their support for our places in Darfour in Sudan with the Christmas Concert. Then he had a visit from Mother Antonia Colombo, accompanied by her Vicar Sr Yvonne Reungoat.

On Saturday 22, with the Councillors he went to Genzano for a day of recollection.

At Christmas he presided at Midnight Mass in our Generalate and then celebrated Mass in the morning in the FMA Generalate where he was welcomed by Mother Antonia Colombo, the Sisters of the Council and the community.

In the days following Christmas, while the sessions of the General Council continued, he took part in the Congress on the Salesian Brother, giving a "Good Night" on 28 and presiding at the closing on Sunday 30.

The civil year is brought to a close with a very busy day. In the

morning he has a meeting with the Secretary of State, His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. In the afternoon he goes to the Generalate of the FMA for the presentation of the Strenna for 2008, and on his return he does the same for the confreres in the community of the Generalate at the Pisana.

– *January 2008*

Between 1 and 6 January the Rector Major takes a few day's break at Les Combes, accompanied by his personal secretary, Fr Juan José Bartolomé, by the Provincial and the Economist of the ICP. On 7 he returns to Rome and the following day the meetings of the General Council resume.

On Friday 11, at the end of the session of the Council the Rector Major attends and speaks at a Formation Course for the parish priests and those in charge of Oratories in Italy.

On Saturday morning 12, he preaches at a Day of Recollection for the Community of the Generalate and in the afternoon leaves for *Soverato* which is celebrating the *centenary of the presence of the Salesians*. On his arrival in the courtyard of the Salesian house he was welcomed by a select group of people including the Mayor, Dr. Raffaele Mancini, a representative

of the City Council, the Hon. Tas-sone, civil, military and academic authorities, members of the Salesian Family, parents and youngsters. Later in the City Hall crowded with guests the Mayor conferred *Honorary Citizenship* on the Rector Major.

On Sunday 13, the Rector Major was welcomed by the people of Soverato and by representatives of the houses of the Southern Province in the main square. He received the keys of the city from the Mayor. Then in the courtyard of the Salesian house there was a celebration during which thanks were also offered to the confreres of the Province who were keeping jubilees of Salesian profession and/or ordination. This was followed by a Press Conference and by Mass.

Having returned to Rome, between Monday 14 and Thursday 17 the Rector Major carried out his normal office work, as well as holding meetings of the Council. Then from Thursday evening until Sunday 20 he took part in the Salesian Family Spirituality Days making various contributions: Good Nights, a Talk, Mass and a concluding address.

On Monday morning 21, Fr Chávez went to the offices of the Union of Superiors General (USG)

for a meeting with the members of the Executive Committees of the USG and the UISG. Then at the Nunciature he took part in a dinner for the new Italian Cardinals.

Between Tuesday 22 and Friday 25 he presided at meetings of the General Council, the last ones of this six-year period. On Wednesday 23 in the Council he announced the appointment of Fr Tarcisio Scaramussa, until then the Councillor for Social Communication, as Auxiliary Bishop of São Paulo, Brazil.

On Friday 25 the Rector Major concluded the plenary session of the Council and in the afternoon, left for Latina where he met various people in connection with the consideration of the subject "culture – young people – immigration", challenges which he himself referred to when honorary citizenship was conferred on him.

On Saturday morning 26, at the Fourth International Forum of the Pontifical Academy of Theology he gave the *Laudatio* for Prof. Donato Valentini SDB on the occasion of his becoming Emeritus. In the afternoon he left for the celebrations marking the *centenary of the Salesians in Costa Rica and Panama*, in the Central American Province.

On Sunday 27, Fr Chávez was welcomed in San José, Costa Rica, by the Provincial Fr Luis Corral,

by the Provincial Councillors and by the Rectors of the houses in Costa Rica. During the next two days he had various meetings with the Confreres, the FMA, the Salesian Family, benefactors and co-workers. On Monday evening 28, he went to the House of the Madonna, of Blessed Maria Romero, where he celebrated Mass, visited the museum dedicated to the memory this holy Salesian Sister and had supper with the FMA of this Province and with the confreres. The next morning he gave a conference on Salesian education and in the evening in the Don Bosco CEDES, he blessed a new gymnasium, celebrated Mass and attended a concert.

On Wednesday he went to Panama, where he was welcomed by the Archbishop José Dimas Cedeño, by the SDB Rectors in Panama, by the FMA Provincial and Superiors and by other members of the Salesian Family. After making a courtesy call to the Archdiocesan Offices he went to the Don Bosco Technical Institute, where the whole educative community was waiting for him. In the evening he presided at Mass on the final day of the Novena of Don Bosco, and then went to the Nunciature where the Nuncio Apostolic, Archbishop Giambattista Di Quattro, gave a supper of

welcome for the Rector Major, attended by the Bishops' Conference of Panama, Ambassadors, distinguished guests and members of the Salesian Family.

On Thursday morning 31, *the Feast of Saint John Bosco*, he visited the Mayor who in the person of the Successor of Don Bosco honoured the Salesians giving him the keys of the city. Then the Deputy Chancellor of the Republic presented the Rector Major with the "Amador Guerrero" Medal, the highest award granted by the State, in gratitude for the presence of the Salesians in Panama. At midday the Rector Major presided at Mass for the young people, linked with the Basilica in Turin. Early in the afternoon he gave a Press Conference and then took part in the solemn procession which concluded with Mass.

– *February 2008*

On Friday 1 February Fr Chávez left for Mexico to visit his family. At Saltillo he visited the community of the Salesians and those of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

He returned to Rome on the 7th. On Saturday morning 9, with his Vicar, Fr Adriano Bregolin, and the FMA sister of Fr Antonio Domenech, he went to Verona to

see Fr Antonio. On this occasion, on his arrival he greeted the youngsters of the Don Bosco Institute and then presided at the community Mass. Then he went to see Fr Antonio Domenech and the Doctor who is treating him.

Having returned to Rome he continued with his usual work in the office, with a number of meetings and with preparations for the General Chapter.

Between Friday 15 and Sunday 17 February, with those Councillors in the house, he went to Puglia, for a weekend outing to mark the end of the six-year period. During these three days they visited San Giovanni Rotondo, praying at the tomb of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina; afterwards they visited the Michaelite community and the Sanctuary of Saint Michael the Archangel at Monte Sant'Angelo, Trani with its Cathedral, Bari staying with the Salesian community and visiting the church of San Nicolas and the Duomo and finally the Salesian community at Andria.

Having returned to Rome, on Monday 18 Fr Chávez took part in an Audience of the Holy Father with the Executive Committees of the USG and the UISG. During the following days he had a number of important meetings and interviews.

On 18 February Fr Helvécio Baruffi returned from Brazil in a critical state of health that required him to go immediately into hospital. That same evening with Fr Adriano Bregolin, Fr Filiberto Rodríguez and Fr Pier Fausto Frisoli, the Rector Major went to the hospital to visit Fr Baruffi, whose condition had so deteriorated that they stayed in the hospital with him until he died. Returning to the Generalate the Councillors with the Provincials present express their condolences and the following day with the Rector Major they go to the mortuary chapel to pray for the repose of his soul.

Following the agreed timetable, on Saturday 23 February the Rector Major goes to Turin where he welcomes the Chapter members who have arrived to spend two days visiting the places associated with the Salesian origins as a spiritual preparation for the work of the GC26. During the two days the places visited include the church of Saint Francis of Assisi, Valdocco and the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians (where Sunday Mass on 24 is celebrated), Colle Don Bosco and the Sanctuary of the Consolata.

On Tuesday 26 February the GC26 begins its activities, carrying out the preliminary stages: the appointment of the Secretaries

and the presentation of the reports of three Departments (Formation, Youth Ministry and Social Communication). In the morning at 11.30, there was the concelebrated funeral Mass for Fr Helvécio Baruffi at which the Rector Major presided. In the afternoon of the 26th and the morning of the 27th the reports of the Departments continue (Salesian Family and Economy) and those of the individual Regions of the Congregation. In the afternoon of 27th the retreat begins preached by Fr José Luis Placencia, which concludes on Sunday 2 March, with a concelebrated Mass at which Archbishop Angelo Amato SDB presides.

– *March-April 2008*

On Monday 3 March 2008 there is the *official opening of the GC26*, which begins with the Mass at which the Rector Major presides, the official ceremony with the opening address of the Rector Major, followed by the speech of Cardinal Franc Rodé in his role as Prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life and by the reading of various messages, in the first place that of the Holy Father Benedict XVI, read by Cardinal Raffaele Farina SDB.

The work of the General Chapter continued **until 12 April**

2008. The chronicle of the days of the Chapter is reported in the Chapter Acts.

During this period of the work of the Chapter the Rector Major in the time available had various meetings and took part in several events. Among these should be recalled his taking part in Turin in the celebrations for the centenary of the Association of the Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians on 8 and 9 March.

In particular should be recalled **25 March**, *on which the Chapter members re-elected Fr Pascual Chávez as Rector Major for a second period of six years.* On the evening of that day the Vicar, Fr Adriano Bregolin was also re-elected, and on the following days (26-28 March) the Councillors for the Departments and the Regions were elected.

In addition the Audience with the Holy Father on 31 March the Solemnity of the Annunciation should be mentioned.

The GC26 ended on Saturday 12 April with the closing address of the Rector Major and with the concelebrated Mass.

On the days between 14 and 17 April the first meetings of the new General Council were held, seven in all, with a very full timetable.

On the evening of 17 with the Vicar, Fr Natale Vitali, Fr Pier Fausto Frisoli and Brother Jesús García, the Rector Major left for Brazil to take part in the *episcopal ordination of Bishop Tarcisio Scaramussa*, appointed Auxiliary Bishop of São Paulo. Going to the Belo Horizonte Province, Fr Chávez first of all visited the house of Vitória – where he blessed the new work-shops of the Salesian Faculty – and Venda Nova do Imigrante. He then went to Vargem Alta, where on Sunday 20 April the episcopal ordination of Bishop Tarcisio Scaramussa took place. On Monday 21 he left to return to Rome.

On the morning of Thursday 24 April the Rector Major left for Udine for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the “Bearzi” Salesian house. In the morning he met the youngsters from the various parts of the centre and opened a new children’s home. After lunch he made a short visit to Aquileia and on the return journey stopped to greet the community and the youngsters in Santa Maria la Longa. Having returned to Udine, he presided at Mass with the Salesian Family and then in the Community Room there was a reception with the civil and religious authorities of the City of Udine express-

ing their gratitude for the Bearzi Salesian House.

The following day Friday 25, at Venezia-Mestre, Fr Chávez met the Salesians of the Italy-North East Province and spoke about the GC26. He then presided at Mass during which there was a special commemoration of the confreres who were celebrating jubilees of Salesian profession and/or ordination. Afterwards he opened and blessed the “Artemides Zatti” House for elderly and /or sick confreres. In the evening he returned to Rome.

On Monday 28, with Fr Adriano Bregolin, he left for Sicily to spend a few days rest there. He took the opportunity to greet the community in Taormina and that of the “Saint Thomas Aquinas” theologate in Messina, where he spoke about the GC26. In the evening of 4 May he returned to Rome.

– May 2008

Between 5 and 10 May the Rector Major remained at home where in addition to daily office work he had a busy time of meetings and interviews with, in addition to the Councillors, confreres and other people or groups who came to see him; among these were a group of Novices from the two Novitiates in Italy at Genzano, Rome and

Pinerolo. On the evening of Thursday 8 he had a meeting in the Vatican with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

Between Sunday 11 and Saturday 17 Fr Chávez was in Mexico to join his family in the triduum of prayer for the death of his sister Alicia.

Having returned to Rome on the morning of the 18 he spent the following days with a number of meetings and other important business.

On Friday 23, with all the members of the Council he left for Turin. Arriving in Turin they immediately went to Colle Don Bosco, where they were welcomed by the community celebrated Mass in the Church of Don Bosco and had lunch with the community. In the afternoon they went to Mondonio, where they were welcomed by the local authorities, and visited the restored house of Saint Dominic Savio.

In the evening they return to Turin, where on *Saturday 24 they celebrated the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians*. In the morning the Rector Major and the Councillors celebrate Morning Prayer in the Pinardi Chapel. Then in the course of the morning the Rector Major had a meeting with the Archbishop of Turin Cardinal Severino Poletto. In the afternoon he

visited the Provincial House of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians where he was welcomed by Mother Antonia Colombo with the Councillors and the Provincial, Sr Celestina Corna, and a very large number of Sisters. Afterwards he celebrated Mass and joined the faithful praying in the Basilica, since the traditional procession had to be cancelled because of the rain.

The following day, with the Councillors and the Provincial, Fr Chávez went to the house at Casale Monferrato, for Mass on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart. In the afternoon they visited the houses of Borgo San Martino, Mirabello and Lu, welcomed by the respective authorities. In the evening they returned to Rome.

On Monday morning 26, the Rector Major went to the Offices of the Union of Superiors General for a meeting of the Executive Committee. Between Wednesday 28 and Friday he took part in the half-yearly Assembly of the USG.

He ended the month of May on the 31, in the afternoon taking part in the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Salesian Family and in the evening in the procession in honour of Mary Help of Christians at the Generalate.

– **June 2008**

The most demanding work of the Rector Major and his Council in the month of June was the *first plenary session of the General Council*, in the six-year period just begun with a very full agenda, the drawing up of the plan for the six-year period being at the head of the list (“Project of animation and government of the Rector Major and his Council for the six-year period 2008-2014”), together with other important business including the appointment of 14 new Provincials. The session began on Monday 2 June and ended on Friday 27 June (sometimes with two meetings a day).

During the month the Rector Major had various other activities in addition to numerous interviews with the Councillors, Bishops, many confreres (in particular among these the new Provincials) and other religious and lay people.

Among his travels and other activities during the month the following main ones should be mentioned:

- a journey to Turin on Saturday 7, where in the morning he took part in celebrations for the *centenary of the SEI* and in the afternoon in the Consultative Committee of the Salesian Family in Piedmont and the Val d’Aosta;
- a meeting in Genzano, on Sunday 8, with the ‘under 50’ confreres of the new Circumscription of Central Italy;
- a journey to Milan on Thursday 12 to meet Magdi Cristiano Allam, Salesian Past Pupil and to take part in the presentation of his book “Grazie Gesù”;
- a meeting of the SDB General Council with the FMA Council at Castelgandolfo on Monday 16.

The 24 June, Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist, the day on which the boys at the Oratory used to celebrated Don Bosco’s feast-day, at the Generalate there was the traditional Feast of the Rector Major. In the evening at a community meeting he announced that the new Rector was Fr Giuseppe Nicolussi.

– **July 2008**

The Rector Major spent the first part of the month mainly at home with the usual daily work and many meetings and interviews.

Among his travels, visits and special meetings should be mentioned:

- Wednesday 2 a visit to the community of Colle Val d’Elsa followed by Siena, at the invitation of the Archbishop Antonio Buoncristiani;
- Saturday morning 5, a meeting with the Secretary of State, Car-

dinal Tarcisio Bertone, in the Vatican;

- in the afternoon of the same day a visit to Verona, to the Don Bosco Institute and then to Cerna for the consecration of the church of "Mary Star of Evangelisation," at the invitation of Fr Guido Todeschini.

On Tuesday 8 July, accompanied by his secretary, the Rector Major left for Australia, to take part in the *World Youth Day*. In the days leading up to the event he visited three houses in the Australian Province: on 11 Chadstone, where the young people of the SYM from 28 countries in the Congregation were gathered together; on 12 at Lysterfield, for a day on which he had a meeting with the confreres of the Province, including those from Samoa; on 13 at Rupertswood, Sunbury, the Mother House of the Province.

On Monday 14 he left for *Sidney*. From the airport he went straight to the house in Engadine where he had numerous meetings with the SDB and youth groups, visited the FMA house and then "Boys Town", an important Salesian centre for disadvantaged youngsters. On 16 he took part in a concelebrated Mass with the young people of the SYM gathered in Engadine. Then he visited "Don Bosco Vil-

lage" and in the afternoon presided at a huge meeting of SDB, FMA and young people of the Salesian Youth Movement who had come from all over the world for World Youth Day.

Having returned to Rome, he took up his usual work and as always gave many interviews.

On the afternoon of Tuesday 22 he went to Tivoli, to the Generalate of the Salesian Oblates, for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Giuseppe Cognata and to enrol the first members of the Association of Lay Salesian Oblates.

On Thursday afternoon 31, the Rector Major received Fr Giuseppe Tabarelli, a missionary in Russia and recently appointed Director of the Library at the UPS. Later Fr Antonio Domenech, recently returned from Verona for the weekend came to see him.

- **August 2008**

The Rector Major spent almost the whole month of August at the Generalate in Rome busy with office work and many meetings and interviews, welcoming a considerable number of confreres from various parts of the Congregation.

Among the journeys he made mention should be made of one between 7 and 8 August with the

Vicar to Spain, to Valsalabroso (Salamanca) to bring good wishes to Fr Filiberto Rodríguez, (and his family) who was getting ready to leave for Angola where he will be Superior of the Vice Province.

On Friday 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, Fr Chávez, accompanied by the Vicar, went to Castelgandolfo, where he concelebrated with the Holy Father who was making his annual visit to our parish. At the end of the Mass he greeted the Holy Father. Afterwards, after breakfast with Cardinal Bertone and the diocesan Bishop, he went to Genzano where he gave a conference to the novices who were preparing for their first profession. The following day 16 August he again had a meeting with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone at Castelgandolo.

On Sunday 17 the Rector Major left for France. Welcomed at the airport by the Provincial Fr Joseph Enger, in the afternoon he arrived at the Salesian house in Pouillé, where in the evening he introduced the Retreat for the Provinces of *France and Southern Belgium*, as the immediate preparation for their unification. The FMA and the Salesians-Cooperators of the two Provinces were also invited. During the week the Rector Major also had many conversations.

On Thursday 21, immediately after Mass, with the Provincial, the FMA Vice Provincial and Fr Yves Le Carréré, he visited Colbert Castle at Maulévrier, where Juliette Françoise Colbert, the Marquise Barolo was born and lived during the early part of her life. In the evening he had a meeting with the Salesians-Cooperators who were taking part in the Retreat. In the afternoon of Friday 22 he took part in a meeting of the Provincial Council of the new Province (FRB). On Saturday 23, at the end of the Retreat Bishop Pierre Pican of Bayeux and Archbishop Basile Mvé, of Libreville concelebrated Mass with the Rector Major.

After his return to Rome, Fr Chávez went to Sant'Agnello, a house of the FMA in the Southern Province, for a few days rest. Here news arrived of the death of Fr Gaetano Scrivo, who for six years was Councillor for Youth Ministry and for 18 years Vicar General. On Wednesday 27 the Rector Major arrived in Loreto where, in the Sanctuary of the Holy House of the Madonna, he took part in the funeral.

- September 2008

On Monday 1st September, with Fr Adriano Bregolin, Fr Fabio Attard and Fr Pier Fausto Frisoli,

the Rector Major went to the Church of Don Bosco in Rome, where he presided at a Mass to launch *the new Circumscription of Central Italy (ICC)*, which was followed by a meeting of all the people (SDB, members of the Salesian Family, co-workers and young people) who had come for this event particularly significant for the presence of the Salesians in this part of Central Italy.

On Thursday morning 4, Fr Chávez spoke to the Rectors of the Province of Manaus, Brazil, who had come on pilgrimage to the places of special Salesian significance, led by the Provincial, Fr Damásio Medeiros, and at midday he presided at Mass.

On Friday 5, with the Councillors present in Rome he went to the UPS for the installation of Fr Joaquim D'Souza, as the new Superior of the UPS Vice Province.

On Monday morning 8, accompanied by his Vicar, the Rector Major left for Mornese, for the Retreat for those taking part in the GCXXII of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The Retreat ended on Sunday 14 with evening prayer, with the presentation of the "spiritual mementos" and the renewal of profession.

On Monday morning 15, with Fr Adriano Bregolin and the

Provincial of Piedmont, Sr Celestina Corna, he went to Nizza Monferrato. He visited the two communities for elderly and sick Sisters. Then he attended an official welcoming ceremony by the community of the Mother House of the FMA and by the local civil authorities of the Town the Province and the Region. Then he presided at Mass in the Sanctuary of Our Lady, and after lunch, returned to Rome.

On Thursday 18, with his Vicar and the Councillors present in Rome he went to the Generalate of the FMA for *Mass and the opening ceremony of the GCXXII*.

On Friday 19, Fr Chávez left for Mexico for a few days with his family and for his annual medical check-up.

He returned to Rome on Saturday 27 and some hours later left for Turin, where on Sunday 28 first of all he met those taking part in the *Harambée 2009* and then presided at the Mass for the 139th *departure ceremony for Salesian missionaries*, with the presentation of the crucifix. In the evening he returned to Rome.

– October 2008

The Rector Major spent the first days of October at home dedicated to the ordinary work in the office, receiving individuals and groups,

and also involved in preparing for the *Synod of Bishops*, which he will attend with nine other Superiors General.

On Sunday morning 5, he went to the "Basilica of Saint Paul's outside the walls" for the Mass for the opening of the Synod on the theme "*The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*." The Synod will continue until 26 October. During this period the Rector Major stayed with the community in the Vatican.

In addition to the activities of the Synod in which he was fully involved during this time, Fr Chávez took part in the "day and night reading of the Bible" held in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem in Rome, gave interviews to the media, held meetings with the Superiors General taking part in the Synod, and between 17 and 20 visited the Porto Alegre Province in Brazil for the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

On the morning of Friday 24 October, with Fr Adriano Bregolin and Fr Fabio Attard, he went to the Generalate of the FMA for a Mass of the Holy Spirit in preparation for the election of the Mother General. In the evening, after a day working at the Synod, he went again to the Generalate to offer his

best wishes to the new Mother General, Sr Yvonne Reungoat.

The Synod ended on Sunday 26 with Mass at which the Holy Father presided in St Peter's Basilica. The Rector Major spent the following days at home, with his ordinary work and a full agenda of meetings and interviews.

– November 2008

On Saturday morning 1st November, the Solemnity of All Saints, Fr Chávez, accompanied by the Councillor for Social Communication, Fr Filiberto González, went to St Peter's Square to take part with the local authorities in the "*Saints' Race*" an initiative of the "Don Bosco in the World Foundation" together with "Prime Time Promotions", with the primary intention of highlighting this Christian Feastday and at the same time responding to the needs of the Mama Margaret House in the Congo.

On Monday morning 3, with Fr Adriano Bregolin, the Rector Major went to the Offices of the Pontifical Council for the Laity for the Pontifical recognition of the "*Canção Nova*" Community.

On Friday 7 at midday he left for *Santander* (the Bilbao Province, Spain) for the celebrations for the *centenary of the presence of the Salesians* in the city. On his arrival

he was welcomed by the Regional Councillor Fr José Miguel Núñez, the Provincial Fr Félix Urrea and members of his Council, by the Rector Fr Alfonso Valcárcel and by confreres of the community. In the evening in the City Hall he received the Gold Medal of the city which the Mayor presented to the Salesian Congregation. During Saturday morning he met with the confreres of the Province and in the afternoon with the youth group leaders and then the Salesian Family. The day concluded with Mass in the Church of Mary Help of Christians.

Early on Sunday morning 16, Fr Chávez left for Milan where he was welcomed by the Provincial Fr Agostino Sosio, who took him straight to Nave. He met the post-novices and the other confreres in the community, welcomed the Mayor who had come to see him, presided at Mass attended also by the Salesian Family with whom he later had a meeting. The next day after saying Mass, accompanied by the Rector Fr Roberto Dal Molin, he went to Brescia. He greeted all the educative community, met the confreres of the community and visited the house and the Salesian work as well as that of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. He then returned to Rome.

Between Tuesday 18 and Thursday 20 the Rector Major was involved in the plenary meeting of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA).

On Saturday morning 22, he went to the Augustinianum where he took part in the Congress of the CIVCSVA marking the centenary of this Department of the Holy See. Afterwards at the Generalate of the Sacred Heart Fathers (Dehonian), he took part in a meeting of the two Executive Committees of the Unions of Male and Female Superiors General. On Monday 24 he had another meeting of the Executive Committee of the USG.

On Tuesday morning 25, accompanied by Fr Adriano Bregolin and Fr Armando Lo Paro he went to the Viminale, to see the Prefect Dr Perla Stancari. Then he went to visit the Sacred Heart and from there arrived at the Campidoglio, to see the Deputy Mayor in order to receive *Italian citizenship*.

On Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27, the Rector Major chaired the half-yearly Assembly of the Union of Superiors General.

On Thursday evening 27 he welcomed the Provincials of Europe, with Delegates and other guests who had come together to consider the "Project for Europe" proposed

by the GC26 (cf. Guidelines for Action 16). The meeting which took place on 28 and 29 November and the morning of Sunday 30, had a mixed well-balanced agenda with celebrations, talks, discussions in Assembly, group meetings for Regions. Special occasions were the Mass on Friday morning 28 in the Basilica of Saint Paul's outside the walls at which Cardinal Camillo Ruini presided and which opened the meeting, and that on Saturday morning 29, at the Catacombs of Saint Callixtus, at which Bishop Adriano Van Luyn SDB presided. The Rector Major presided at the closing Mass on Sunday 30 at 12.00. Among the talks of particular significance was that of the Rector Major at the beginning in which he explained the purpose of the "Project for Europe" and of the meeting, offering a "working document" based on the results of the enquiry conducted among the European Provincials. Also significant was the talk on Saturday 29 given by Magdi Cristiano Allam, Deputy Editor of the *Corriere della Sera*, who gave an account of his own personal meeting with Jesus and therefore of his conversion, as well as a reflection on Islam, in particular in the continent of Europe. On Sunday morning before Mass the Rector Major concluded the meet-

ing, drawing together and making his own reflections offered by the working groups and the Regions, making some special points about the strategic decisions to be made and indicating the way ahead for work still to be done, in the General Council and through the special Commission that is to be set up.

4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

The Vicar of the Rector Major

When the summer plenary session of the General Council finished the Vicar of the Rector Major went to Bolton for a period to study English. Here he stayed for about a month taking the opportunity also to visit briefly the Battersea community in London. Having returned to Rome he was present at Castel Gandolfo on 15 August with the Rector Major, for the usual visit of the Holy Father to the Salesian parish. Between 20 and 31 August he had a period of rest at the FMA Community in Sant'Agnello di Sorrento (NA).

During September he took part in the installation of the new Provincial of Central Italy (1 September), had a meeting with the Rectors of the Manaus Province at the Generalate (4 September), was present for the change-over of the Superior at the UPS (5 September) and accompanied the Rector Major when he was preaching the Retreat to the members of the General Chapter of the FMA, in Mornese (8-15 September). Later, on 18 he was present at the opening of the General Chapter of the FMA, and attended some of the early sessions of the Chapter.

On 27 he left for Mexico, for a visit to the MEM Province where he had a meeting with the Provincial Council. On 30 September he travelled to the United States. In San Francisco he had a meeting with the Provincial Council. He also visited the Salesian Community in Berkeley.

Having returned to Italy, between 8 and 11 October he made a visit to the Hungary Province. Here he went to various houses and blessed the new school at Kazincbarcika, which is mainly concerned with providing vocational training for young *Rom*. On 24 October with the Rector Major he went to pay his respects to the new Mother General of the Daughters

of Mary Help of Christians at their Generalate.

On 29 he left for Kenya. Here in Nairobi, he met the Provincials of the Africa and Madagascar Conference and spent the days 30 October to 1 November dealing with the subject of religious discipline and related problems. On 8 November he left for Thailand. Here he visited the works in Chiang Mai and "Ban Nazareth" in Banpong, where he met the Rectors and also had a meeting with the Salesian Family. He also made a short visit to Sarasit, also in Banpong. (11 November). Then he went to Bangkok, where he visited the Don Bosco Institute, the Dominic Savio School and the "Guardian Angels" Centre for the vocational training of blind youngsters. Afterwards on 13 November he went to Indonesia, to Jakarta. Here he visited the "Wisma Don Bosco" postnovitiate, the Don Bosco parish and paid a courtesy call on the FMA community. On 14 he visited the house in Tigaraksa, a prenovitiate and vocational training school. The same day he met the confreres of the "Wisma Don Bosco" community and the prenovices. On 15 he called on the Nuncio Apostolic in Jakarta and the same evening met a group of the Salesian Family.

On 16, accompanied by the Provincial Fr Calleja, he travelled to Timor Leste. In Dili he said Mass and had a meeting with the Salesian Family in the city. The following day he went to Fatumaca, where he met the aspirants, prenovices and novices and the Salesian Family. In addition he was able to meet the young people in the Vocational Training School. Having returned to Dili, in the evening he had a meeting with the Timorese postnovices. On Tuesday 18 he visited the Novitiate of the FMA, where he said Mass and then the Bishop of Dili. Having returned to Jakarta, in the evening he met Friends and Benefactors of Don Bosco. On 21 November he returned to Italy.

On 26 he took part in the Assembly of the Superiors General and between 27 and 30 the meeting of the Provincials of Europe, called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for Formation

Between 14 and 17 July, the General Councillor for Formation had a meeting with a group to prepare "Suggestions" and "Work material" for the 150th Anniversary of the

Founding of the Congregation. On 20-21 July at Auronzo he took part in a formation meeting with the coordinators of pastoral work in the Italy North-East Province. Between 23 July and 29 August he was in London-Battersea for a period of further study and practice of English. On 7 September in Milan he received the perpetual professions of Salesians from the Lombardy Emilian Province and on 8 at Colle Don Bosco the first professions of the Pinerolo novices.

In the months of September and October the Councillor held meetings with the eight *Regional Formation Commissions*: the West Europe Region at Madrid on 1-5 September; the South Asia Region at Hyderabad on 15-18 September; the America South Cone Region at Buenos Aires between 26 and 30 September; the Interamerica Region at Guatemala between 3 and 7 October; the Italy Middle East Region at Rome-San Tarcisio on 10-12 October; the Africa and Madagascar Region at Nairobi between 21 and 26 October; the North Europe Region at Krakow between 3 and 5 November; the East Asia and Oceania Region at Seoul between 13 and 16 November.

During the meetings with the Regional Commissions he also visited the *formation communities*

in the various Regions: between 12 and 14 September he visited the formation communities of the Hyderabad Province at Manoharabad, Karunapuram and Guadala; between 23 and 25 September those in Argentina: the aspirantate, prenovitiate and postnovitiate at Córdoba, the novitiate at Alta Gracia, the theologate at San Justo. On 2 October he visited the prenovitiate, the novitiate and the postnovitiate, the house for the specific formation of Salesian priests and Salesian Brothers at Guatemala. On 19 and 20 October he visited the prenovitiate and the theologate at Nairobi; on 10 and 11 November the novitiate at Daejeon in South Korea, the prenovitiate at Kwang-ju and the students of theology in Seoul.

It should also be mentioned that he took part in the inauguration of the Academic Year at the UPS on 15 October; in the Seminar of the Department of Youth Ministry and Catechetics at the UPS on 7-8 November; in the Seminar of the Faculty of Social Communication at the UPS on 21-22 November. Between 24 and 27 November he visited the postnovitiate at Nave, the novitiate at Pinerolo and the theologate at Turin-Crocetta, where he led some community meetings and chaired the "Curatorium" for

each of the three formation communities and the respective study centres. Between 28 and 30 November he took part in the meeting of the European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for Youth Ministry

The Councillor for Youth Ministry (YM), Fr Fabio Attard, had the opportunity to spend the whole of the month of July in Salamanca, following a Spanish language course. Then, after two weeks in Malta to complete his final commitments in the Archdiocese, he visited Krakow between 17 and 19 August, taking part in the *Eurizon* meeting held in that city: 80 young leaders from 8 European countries were following a formation week on the subject of *leadership*. There was also time to meet the group of novices and pre-novices in the house of Oświęcim, and visit the school at Nowa Huta.

At Collevalenza, on 20-22 August, the Councillor took part in the "quinquennium" meeting of Salesian priests and Brothers, sharing with them a reflection on "The Eucharist and pastoral activity."

Between 29 and 31 August, at Pacognano, Fr Fabio took part in the Province YM meeting of the Southern Italy Province, speaking about the GC26 with representatives of the various houses.

On 2 September, on the occasion of the launching of the new Circumscription of Central Italy (ICC), Fr Attard spoke to the confreres of the new Circumscription about the GC26 as a challenge and an opportunity.

After being present at the first professions at Colle Don Bosco, on 8 September, between 12 and 21 September, the Councillor visited the Province of Bolivia taking part in the *Encuentro Regional Opción Preferencial*. During this visit the Councillor also had the opportunity to meet the formation communities in Cochabamba, where he spoke about the GC26.

Between 25 and 30 September at Dakar, Senegal, there was a meeting of the YM Delegates from Africa and Madagascar. There was reflection on the GC26 and also the process for the next six years was considered. During this period Fr Fabio was accompanied by Fr Dominic Sequeira from the YM Department.

On 8 October the Councillor took part in an Italian National meeting of those responsible for Social Ser-

vices held at the house of the Sacred Heart in Rome. The Salesians present together with the Councillor reflected on the GC26 in view of the path to follow during the next six years.

Between 9 and 16 October the Councillor, with Fr Dominic Sequeira, visited Ecuador for a meeting of the YM Delegates from Inter-America. The first two days they spent in Guayaquil taking part in the National Meeting of the SYM of Ecuador; then they moved on to Quito for the meeting, with the Delegates who, in addition to the planned programme for the six year period, together with the coordinators of vocational promotion reflected on the experience of the aspirantate.

Between 24 and 26 October the Councillor accompanied by Fr Antoni Balcerzak, met the YM Delegates from the CIMEC at Verzej, Slovenia. They reflected on the GC26 with a view to integrating it in the various Provincial Planning processes.

Between 27 and 31 October, the Councillor was present at the IUS meetings in Brasilia, Brazil, which focused on the study of the PROGRAMMA COMÚN 3, 2007-2011.

Between 10 and 22 November, the Councillor with Fr Dominic Sequeira and Fr Antoni Balcerzak

paid a visit to Chennai and Bangalore, India. The main purpose of the visit was a meeting with the YM Delegates, those of the various Sectors and of the Development Offices in the South Asia Region. They reflected on the GC26 in order to produce a Regional Planning Programme for the next six year period. In addition to these meetings, Fr Fabio also spoke with the Rectors in the city of Chennai and those responsible for YM in each house about the spirit of the GC26. In Chennai, as in Bangalore, they were able to visit some of the significant works for street children coordinated by YOUTH AT RISK (YAR) which because of the work it is doing enjoys great respect in the field of marginalisation in India.

The last meeting was in the Generalate between 27 and 30 November, that for the European Provincials with the Rector Major and all the General Council.

The Councillor for Social Communication

Between 1 July and 8 August the Councillor for Social Communication, Fr Filiberto González, was at New Rochelle, in the Provincial House of the East United States

Province practising English. Having returned to Rome, between 9 and 13 August he completed the paper work necessary for his Permission to Reside in Italy. Afterwards between 14 August and 2 September he was in Mexico visiting the two Provinces of Guadalajara and México and also visiting his family.

Between 11 and 13 September he visited the Prague Czech Republic Province. Then between 14 and 17 he visited the Province of Slovakia, with Brother Hilario Seo, a member of the Department. Between 25 and 29 September he was in Madrid and Pamplona for a meeting of the Iberian Social Communication Delegation.

Between 30 September and 2 October at the Generalate the Councillor took part in a meeting of the World Consultative Committee for the Missions, at the invitation of Fr Václav Klement, Councillor of that Department. Then between 3 and 5 October he was in Zagreb for a meeting of the CIMEC, invited by the Regional Fr Štefan Turanský to encourage the SC sector.

Between 15 and 29 October in Quito, Ecuador, Fr Filiberto took part in the International Congress on *Free/Libre/Open source software*, and a meeting of the Provin-

cial Delegates for Social Communication in the Latin America - South Cone and Interamerica Regions. Also present at the meetings were Fr Julian Fox and Bro. Jesús García, both members of the SC Department.

On 1 November with the Rector Major he was present at the "Saints' Race" in St Peter's Square. Between 3 and 6 November he was in Krakow at the Provincial House with Fr Antonio Balcerzak, a member of the Youth Ministry Department for a meeting of Provincial Delegates for Social Communication from Poland and from the CIMEC. After this between 6 and 8 he visited in Warsaw and Torun the Radio Maria centre, the TV and the University of Social Communications of the Redemptorists. Between 9 and 13 November, with Fr Julian Fox, a member of the Department, in Horn (Austria), he took part in a meeting of Provincial Delegates for Social Communication from the Provinces of Austria, France-Southern Belgium, Great Britain and Ireland.

On his return to Rome, on 21 and 22 November Fr Filiberto took part, with the Councillor for Formation in a Seminar of study and evaluation of the Project of the Faculty of Social Communication

at the UPS. On 27 November he took part in a meeting of Salesian Publishers and Bookshops in Spain. Finally, between 28 and 30 November in the "Salesianum" with the Rector Major and other members of the General Council, he took part in the meeting of European Provincials called by the Rector Major.

The Councillor for the Missions

At the end of the summer session in June, the Councillor for the Missions, Fr Václav Klement, left for the Madrid Province where he remained between 28 June and 20 July, for a first course of Spanish at Salamanca - Colégio di Pizzarales. During this time he was able to get to know about Mission Promotion at national level both in the Mission Office and with the NGO "Jovenes Tercer Mundo".

A first visit to Africa was devoted to the East Africa Province (Sudan, Kenya, 22 July - 4 August). The Councillor preached the Retreat for the confreres of the Sudan Delegation, visited the three communities in the North of the country, and was able to speak personally with almost all the confreres of the Delegation. He returned to Rome

by way of Nairobi, Kenya, where, accompanied by the Provincial Fr Joseph Pulikkal, he visited all the houses in the capital and presided at the installation of the new Rector of the theologate at Utume, Fr Felice Molina.

After two days in Rome he left again for a first visit to Latin America, to Quito (Ecuador), between 10 August and 7 September. In the first week, with the Regional Fr Esteban Ortiz, and some Bishops and Salesian confreres he took part in CAM3 (*Tercero Congreso Americano Misionero*) with the theme «Escucha, aprende y anuncia», attended by about 3000 missionaries from all the countries of the American Continent.

In the following four days after returning to Europe, he went to the Austrian Province meeting the Provincial and his Council, then visiting some houses and the missionary NGO "Jugend Eine Welt" in Vienna (8-11 September). In the visit he was able to identify some of the dynamics of the "Project for Europe."

Afterwards the month of September was spent in the preparation and carrying out of the course for the 25 new-missionaries (15 from VIE, 2 from FIN and ITM, 1 from each of the Provinces ICP-INE-GER-SBI-AFW-AGL-INB-

INK-INN-INT), in Rome and at Colle Don Bosco, between 13 and 28 September, led by Fr Joseph Puthenpurakal (IND) and Fr Alfred Maravilla (a new collaborator in the Department for the Missions). At the first meeting of the first *World Consultative Committee for the Missions*, held in Rome between 29 September and 2 October, 11 members from the Regions, together with representatives of the Departments for Youth Ministry and Social Communications took part.

Between 4 and 7 October, with the Regional Councillor for West Europe, Fr Klement visited Salesian educational centres in Morocco (Kénitra, Tangier), where there is one of the most self-sacrificing missions, in which all those benefiting are young Muslims. The following week was spent reflecting on and studying what had emerged in the World Consultative Committee Meeting.

The Councillor spent the next three weeks (16 October - 5 November) on a first working visit to the South Asia Region. Fr Klement visited six Provinces in India (New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Dimaipur, Chennai, Bangalore), with the aim of getting first hand knowledge of the work of primary evangelisation and for the missionary

animation of the confreres especially those in initial formation.

Between 6 and 11 November the Councillor was engaged in missionary animation in the houses of formation and presided at the 5th Missionary Day in the Province of Vietnam.

This was followed by a short visit (12-16 November) to consolidate the mission in Cambodia and by a meeting with missionaries in the diocese of Suratthani, Thailand (17-18 November)

After his return to Rome the last week (20-24 November) was spent in the missionary animation of the four Polish Provinces (Piła, Warszawa, Kraków, Wrocław), which also included a meeting with all the Provincials and their Delegates for Missions Promotion at Wrocław, on 22 November. In addition to getting to know the structures of missionary animation at Warsaw and Kraków, the Councillor visited two houses of initial formation and centres for missionary animation in these two Provinces.

The Economist General

When the summer session of the Council ended the Economist General, Br. Claudio Marangio, went to London staying in the Bat-

tersea Salesian community for a period of further study and practice of English.

Having returned to Rome at the beginning of September, on 18 of the same month he took part in the opening ceremony of the XXII General Chapter of the FMA and the following day left for a visit to the Vice Province of the Great Lakes (AGL), joining the Regional Councillor for Africa and Madagascar

Having returned to Rome on 25 of the same month he stayed on at the Generalate where he continued the process of the reorganisation of the Economist General's Department Offices.

On 3 October he took part in a meeting of the Council of Administration of the SEI Publishing House, in which he assumed the role of Vice-President of the SEI. On 15 he took part in the opening of the Academic year at the Salesian Pontifical University and in the afternoon met the Administrative Council of the University with the Economists of the Faculties.

On 18 October at Fossano, in the Salesian house he was present at the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the death of the confrere Brother Mario Di Giovanni.

On 25 October he began a visit to the Province of Perù, where he re-

mained until the end of the Extraordinary Visitation by the Councillor for the Interamerica Region, on 9 November.

Having returned to Rome he continued with his ordinary activities. During the last days of November (between 27 and 30) with the other General Councillors he took part in the meeting of the European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the Africa - Madagascar Region

The Regional Councillor for Africa and Madagascar, Fr Guillermo Basaños, in the period July-November 2008 was able to make a first "getting to know you" visit to all the 13 Circumscriptions in the Region (2 Provinces, 10 Vice Provinces, 1 Delegation).

In addition to meeting the confreres in the 117 communities, in 24 countries in the Region, he was able to take part in some significant moments in the life of the Provinces: the Retreat and Perpetual Professions at Lubumbashi (AFC, 5 July); 25th anniversary of the FMA in Angola (3 August); Perpetual Profession and Ordination to the priesthood in Tete

(MOZ, 9-10 August); Retreat at Yaoundé (ATE, 23 August); Retreat, Provincial Assembly and First Professions at Gbodjomé (AFO, the end of August); First Professions at Sunyani (AFW, 8 September), etc. Visiting the AGL, with the Economer General, he was able to examine with the Provincial Council the plans for a new Provincial House.

At the same time he took part in three events of great importance for the life of the Region: the annual meeting of the Regional Youth Ministry Commission (Dakar, 26-30 September, with the Youth Ministry Councillor also present; the annual meeting of the Regional Formation Commission (Nairobi, 21-26 October, with the Councillor for Formation also present); and finally the Regional Councillor chaired the 7th meeting of CIVAM, held this year in Nairobi between 30 October and 2 November in the welcome presence also of the Vicar of the Rector Major.

Between 7 and 26 November the Regional Councillor had some time for a rest and a visit to his parents, family and the Salesians in Buenos Aires. He then returned to Rome to take part in the meeting of the European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone Region

When the June session of the General Council was concluded, Fr Natale Vitali took the opportunity between 2 and 29 *July* to learn Portuguese in the city of *San Paulo*, Brazil, living in the Provincial House. He also visited some other Salesian houses, had a meeting with the Provincial Council and in Campos do Jordão spoke about GC26 to all those in formation in the Province. He also visited the tomb of the Venerable Rodolfo Komorek and the Sanctuary of the Virgin "Aparecida", Patroness of Brazil. On 31 he took part in the "Curatorium" of the studentate of theology in Lapa.

Between 2 and 6 *August* he was in *Paraguay* where he visited some Salesian communities including the Novitiate and the Postnovitiate; he also had a meeting with the Provincial Council and the Salesian Rectors

Between 9 and 13 he visited the Province of *Buenos Aires*, Argentina, where he was able to get to know the situation of Argentinian Patagonia: Ushuaia and Río Grande. He had a meeting with the students of theology and with the formational personnel. He also met

the Provincial Council and visited other centres in Buenos Aires.

Between 14 and 20 he was in the Province of *Córdoba*, Argentina. He spoke to and celebrated Mass with the Novices in Argentina, at Altargracia; he visited some other communities including the house for sick Salesians and the Provincial House of the FMA. On 16 and 17 he took part in a meeting of young Salesian Leaders "EJAS" and spoke about the GC26 with the 60 Salesians present at the meeting.

On 20 he held a meeting with the Provincial Councils of Rosario and Córdoba in the city of Resistencia, to consider the process leading to the unification of the two Provinces.

On 22 he arrived in the Province of *La Plata*, Argentina, where he visited some houses and met with the Provincial Council.

On 25 he held a meeting with the Provincials of Argentina in the city of *Bahía Blanca*. He visited some of the houses in the Province especially the "John XXIII" Centre. He was also able to visit the tomb of Blessed Laura Vicuña and that of Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá in the city of Fortín Mercedes.

On 4 September he began a visit to the Province of *Belo Horizonte*, in Brazil. In Cachoeira do Campo he took part in a meeting of over

300 young people of the SYM. He also held a meeting with the Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry of the SDB and the FMA in Brazil. He also met the Provincial Council, the Commission for Initial Formation, the prenovices and the students of theology.

On 14 September he began a visit to the province of *Campo Grande*, Brazil. He was able to visit 18 out of the 23 Salesian communities and personally presented the confreres with the GC26 Document. Of special significance were visits to three mission centres for the Xavantes and Bororos at Meruri, San Marcos and Sangradouro and to the "Cittá Dom Bosco" in Corumbá. He also visited the Salesian Archbishop of Campo Grande and his Auxiliary, also a Salesian.

Returning to Argentina, on 26 and 27, at Buenos Aires, he took part in the meetings of the Regional Formation Commission and on 28 and 29 held a meeting for the 14 Provincials of the Region.

On 2 October he began a visit to the Province of *Rosario*, Argentina. He held a meeting with the Provincial Council and visited some houses.

On 6 he began a visit to the Province of *Recife*, Brazil. He visited the Novitiate held a meeting

with the Provincial Council and then met the prenovices and the postnovices. On 11 he took part in a meeting of the young people from the Provincial SYM.

On 17 October he went to the Province of *Porto Alegre* joining the Rector Major who was visiting the Province. After seeing some of the houses in the Province he met with the Provincial Council and also visited the prenovices and postnovices.

On 27 he was once again in Buenos Aires, to take part in a meeting of the five Provincial Councils of Salesian Argentina. The following day, 28 October he went to the Province of *Manaus*, to pay a visit.

On 13 November he made a visit to the Province of *Uruguay*, where he had a meeting with the Delegates for Pastoral work in the CISUR Conference and also with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the Delegates for Schools in this Conference.

Between 19 and 21 he was again in Campo Grande, with the confreres meeting together to draw up the POI.

Finally on 22 November, he went to *Chile*, and then returned to Rome in order to take part between 27 and 30 in the meeting of the European Provincials called by

the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the Interamerica Region

When the summer plenary session of the General Council held in June came to an end, Fr Esteban Ortiz González, Councillor for the Interamerica Region, left on Sunday 29 for Orange (NJ, USA) to take part in an English language course during the month of July.

At the end of the course, he went for a few days to his family in New York. Afterwards on 6 August he travelled to Guatemala to chair the "Curatorium" of the CRESCO (Centre for the Specific Formation of Salesian Brothers), which was held on Friday 8 with the participation of seven Provincials (five from the Interamerica Region and two from the America South Cone Region) and the whole formation team.

On 9 August the Regional Councillor went to Ecuador to take part in the American Missionary Congress (CAM 3 - COMLA 8) at Quito, with Fr Václav Klement, General Councillor for the Missions. During his stay in Quito he had a meeting with the Provincial Council of Ecuador, and another with the

team of the Regional Centre for Ongoing Formation (CSRFP).

On 17 August Fr Esteban Ortiz arrived in Lima, Perú, to begin the *Extraordinary Visitation of the "Saint Rose of Lima" Province of Perú* (PER). On 18 August he held a first meeting with the Provincial Council and on 19 began his travels around the Salesian Communities (21), which he will complete on 4 November.

During the Extraordinary Visitation he makes two breaks: the first between 21 and 23 September in order to attend, in Santa Cruz (Bolivia), the final part of the meeting on the "Preferential Option" (work with youngsters at risk), and the second to coordinate the annual meeting of the Provincials of the Interamerica Region, taking place at Medellín (Colombia) between 19 and 26 October.

On 26 October, before returning to the Peru Province to conclude the Extraordinary Visitation, the Regional Councillor went to Bogotá for a meeting with the Provincial Council of that Province.

Having returned to Perú, Fr Esteban Ortiz concluded his visits to the Communities and with the Provincial Teams, and on Saturday 8 held the final meeting of the Extraordinary Visitation, in the morning meeting the Rectors of

the Communities and some other Confreres, and in the afternoon the Provincial and his Council; during the final part of the Extraordinary Visitation of Perú the Economist General, Bro Claudio Marangio was also present to assess the economic situation of the Province.

The Regional Councillor left Lima on Sunday 9 November to begin a series of meetings in three Provinces of the Region to organise the Consultation for the process of discernment for new Provincials: SUO (San Francisco and Los Angeles), SUE (Chicago, New Orleans, Tampa, Orange and Stony Point), CAN (Montreal and Toronto) and ANT (Havana, San Juan, La Vega and Santo Domingo).

On Sunday 30 November the Regional Councillor returned to Rome to take part in the Winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the East Asia - Oceania Region

When the summer session of the General Council ended, the Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania Region Fr Andrew Wong took part in the opening of the process for the beatification and canonisation of Fr Carlo Braga, a holy mis-

sionary in China and in the Philippines. The event took place on 5 July in Sondrio and Tirano, where Fr Braga was born and met the Salesians.

Between 11 July and 26 November, the Councillor gradually visited the confreres of the ten Provinces and Vice Provinces of the Region: Australia, China (Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), Indonesia - East Timor, Japan, Korea, North Philippines, South Philippines, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. He was also able to visit the other confreres of eight other areas which form part of some of the Provinces mentioned. These areas are: Pakistan, Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Yanji (north east China), Shitan (south China) and Mongolia.

During the visits, the Regional took part in some events that were significant for the Region. The first was between 11 and 17 July in Australia, the time of the *World Youth Day* in Sydney. Fr Andrew Wong accompanied the Rector Major in meeting the confreres and members of the Salesian Family; and then at the two celebrations with Salesian young people at Melbourne and Sydney, before the arrival of the Pope. A second important event in which the Regional took part was the annual meeting

of the *Curatorium* of "Don Bosco Center of Studies" at Parañaque, Manila, on 28 August. Between 12 and 15 November, he also took part in the annual Regional meeting of the Delegates for Formation, which was led by Fr Francesco Cereda, Councillor for Formation, with Fr Chrys Saldanha. Finally, the Regional attended the opening of the Seminar on the *Salesian History* of the Region on 24 and 25 November, with the presence of Fr Francesco Motto and Fr Matthew Kapplikunnel, from the Salesian Historical Institute.

Afterwards he returned to Rome to take part between 27 and 30 November in the meeting of European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the South Asia Region

When the plenary session of the General Council finished in June 2008, the Councillor for the South Asia Region, Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga, left for Sri Lanka. There in the Provincial House of the Vice Province at Dungelpitiya, between 29 June and 2 July he presided at a meeting of the Provincial Conference of South Asia, the SPCSA,

with the Provincials studying the best ways to communicate the GC26 and the Planning of the Rector Major and his Council to all the confreres. On 30 June he presided at Mass and took part in the inauguration of the first two houses of the FMA in Sri Lanka, at Negombo and at Nochiagama. Then, between 3 and 7 July he visited all the Salesian houses in the Vice Province.

Having arrived in Chennai, India, on 8 July, he visited some houses in the city. On 12 July he flew to Panaji, Goa, to take part in the meeting of the Executive Committee of BOSCOM, India. Having returned to Chennai, on 14 he paid a visit to the Generalate of the Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in the city and gave a conference to the Sisters. Later, because of an eye operation for a cataract on 17 July, he had to rest the eyes for 15 days. After medical attention, at the beginning of August the Councillor went to Bhopal, in the centre of India, to take a course in Hindi for two weeks.

Between 16 August and 17 November the Councillor spent all his time visiting all the Provinces in India and taking part in some important Regional meetings. In this time he visited 225 Salesian houses and another 80 belonging to various groups of the Salesian Family.

The purpose of the visits was to make a first acquaintance with the Provinces, the confreres and the various centres and to speak about the GC26 and the Planning of the Rector Major and his Council. In each Province the Regional spoke to the Provincial Council, to various categories of groups of confreres, and in the different areas. He also met other groups of the Salesian Family such as the FMA, the MSMHC, the SMI, the Disciples, the VDB, the VSDB, and the SMA. He gave special importance to visiting formation houses and scattered missions located in areas far from the centre.

In this way the Councillor was in the Province of Kolkata between 16 and 23 August. Here he also visited the Generalate of the SMI Sisters in Krishnagar and the tomb of the holy Salesian Father Convertini. He then moved on to the Province of Mumbai between 24 and 31 August, visiting in particular the areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Between 1 and 8 September he was in the Province of Bangalore, giving special attention to the houses in north Karnataka and north Kerala, and carrying out the consultation for the new Provincial in four different areas. He visited the Province of Hyderabad between 9 and 18 August. In the last

four days (15-18) he took part in a meeting of the Regional Formation Commission with Fr Francesco Cereda, General Councillor for Formation.

Going to the New Delhi Province between 19 and 29 September, the Councillor spoke and carried out the consultation for the new Provincial in the States of Punjab, New Delhi, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. Afterwards he spent the first seven days of October (1-7) in the Province of Konkan-Panaji, where he was able to visit all the houses and take part in a meeting of the Salesian psychologists of India. From there he went to the Province of Guwahati on 8 October, and visited the houses in the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura, also meeting the Superior Generals of the MSMHC at Guwahati and of the VSDB in Shillong. On the last two days he was joined by Fr Václav Klement, Councillor for the Missions. The following week was spent in the Province of Dimapur, beginning with Imphal, Manipur where the two Councillors took part in the 75th anniversary of religious life of Fr John Med, a missionary and co-national of Fr Klement. Visits were made to Manipur, Nagaland, Upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. On 31 October the two Councillors arrived in

Chennai and visited some houses. Then on 4 November they went to Bangalore. While Fr Klement left for Vietnam on 5 November, the Regional continued his visits in the Province of Tiruchy. Between 14 and 18 in Chennai he took part in a meeting of the Youth Ministry Teams of the whole Region led by Fr Fabio Attard and the team from his Department. On 21 November he arrived in Rome with Fr Fabio Attard, Fr Dominic Sequiera and Fr Antoni Balcerzak. Between 27 and 30 November he then took part in the meeting of the European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the North Europe Region

When the plenary session of the General Council ended in June 2008, the Councillor for the North Europe Region, Fr Štefan Turanský left for Munich in Bavaria (Germany), where he spent the months of July and August studying German. During this period he had a meeting with the Provincial Council of Germany and visited the communities of Benediktbeuern, Kostanz, Buxheim, Ens-dorf, Helenenberg, Jünckherath...

The following months were devoted to visiting the Provinces in the Region, meeting the Provincial Councils and calling in various communities. Here in schematic form is the list of visits made in the three months.

In the month of September:

- 9-13 September: visit to the Great Britain Province: meeting with the Provincial Council and visits to various communities (Bolton, Bootle, Farnborough, London);
14-18 September: visit to the Province of Slovenia: meeting with the Provincial Council and visits to various communities (Ljubljana, Maribor, Veržej, Želimje, Trstenik...);
19-22 September: visit to the Province of Hungary;
23-27 September: visit to the Province of North Belgium and the Delegation of Holland: a meeting with the Provincial Council of Belgium and the Delegation of Holland. Visit to the communities of Groot-Bijgaarden, Woluwe, Oud-Heverlee, Rijswijk (Holland)

In the month of October:

- 3-6 October in Zagreb, Croatia: the annual meeting of the CIMEC. Present were five Provincials and Vice Provincials. The subject of the meeting was the presentation of the Programme of the Rector

Major and his Council for the six-year period 2008-2014;

7-10 October: visit to the Province of Austria (Vienna, Amstetten, Linz);

11-16 October: visit to the Province of Slovakia: a meeting with the Provincial Council;

17-20 October, Berlin-Marzahn - Germany: meeting with the Provincials of the Atlantic-German Area;

21-23 October: visit to the Province of Ireland (Dublin, Celbridge...)

24-27 October: visit to the Special Circumscription of East Europe (Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Gatchina);

29-31 October: visit to the Ukraine Delegation of the Byzantine-Ukraine rite.

In the month of November:

2-7 November: visit to the Province of Kraków, Poland (Kielce, Oświęcim, Skawa, Szczyrk)

8 November: Budapest: installation of the new Provincial Fr Albert Van Hecke;

9-15 November: visit to the Province of Warsaw, Poland (Czerwinsk, Płock, Lutomiersk, Łódź, Sokołów, Suwałki, Olsztyn, Ostróda);

16-20 November: visit to the Province of Piła, Poland (Swobnica, Szczecin, Łą, Poznań Wino-grady);

21-26 November: visit to the Province of Wrocław, Poland (Twardogóra, Lubin, Częstochowa, Tarnowskie Góry). On 22-23 November the Councillor had a meeting with the KSIP.

On 27 November Fr Štefan Turanský returned to Rome where he took part in the meeting of the European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe."

The Councillor for the West Europe Region

At the end of the summer session of the General Council, the Regional Fr José Miguel Núñez left Rome to go to Barcellona to introduce the new Provincial Fr Ángel Asurmendi, on 27 and 28 June. On 29 he was in Seville to introduce the new Provincial there, Fr Francisco Ruiz, in the Sanctuary-Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

On 1 July Fr José Miguel went to Lisbon where he visited the Province and at the same time took a course in Portuguese, during the whole of the month of July. On 12 July he travelled to Madrid to introduce the new Provincial of the "Saint John Bosco" Province, Fr Luis Onrubia. On 19 he chaired

the first meeting of the 'Reflection Group' of the Region, with the participation of confreres from Spain, Portugal and France. On 26-27 he accompanied the Spanish novices, with the Director Fr Juan Manuel Ruano, to Rome - Genzano.

In the first days of August the Councillor took a short break with his family. Afterwards during 14-16 August he was in Granada to receive the first professions of the Spanish novices. On 16 he took part in the *Curatorium* of the novitiate. Then between 25 and 27 he visited the Province of León, taking part in the Provincial Council and the planning days with the confreres in León and Cambados (Pontevedra). On 28-29 he visited the Province of Bilbao, taking part in the planning day with the Assembly of the Confreres at Somalo (Logroño).

In the month of September between 1 and 3 the Councillor took part, with Fr Francesco Cereda and Fr Chrys Saldanha, in the meeting of the Regional Formation Commission in Madrid - El Planío. On 4 he left for France to visit the Province and to update his French. He visited various houses, took part in a meeting of Rectors from South Belgium and the Provincial Council on 29-30. On 1-2 October he visited the "Saint

John Bosco" formation community in Lyon.

Also in October on 3-4 he was in Santiago de Compostela to take part in the European Assembly of the SYM with young people from many countries of Europe. In addition to having various meetings with the young people, he presided at Mass in the Cathedral of Santiago. The following day, 5 October, he went to Seville where he joined Fr Václav Klement, to go together to Tangier (Morocco) and to familiarise themselves with the ASS-ABIL project, which is being run by the NGO "Solidaridad Don Bosco" (Seville Province) for young Moroccans in difficulty. The two Councillors had an interview with the Bishop M. Santiago Agrelo and visited the Salesian foundation in Kénitra.

On 20-22 October Fr José Miguel took part in a meeting with the Scolopi in Florence on the subject of the Project for Europe and the reorganisation of Religious Congregations on the Continent. On 28 October he represented the Rector Major at the proclamation of the new Minor Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Seville. Cardinal M. Carlos Amigo Vallejo presided at the Mass.

On 31 he left for Lisbon for a second meeting of the 'Reflection

Group' of the Region. During the next two weeks, the first fortnight of November, with the Provincial of Portugal he visited the houses in the north of the country.

On 8-9 November he accompanied the Rector Major to Santander for the presentation of the Gold Medal of the City to the Salesian Congregation, on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the presence of the Salesians.

During the week 16 to 22 November he preached a retreat for the Rectors and the Provincial Council of Seville at Sanlúcar la Mayor (Seville) on the subject of the GC26. On 24-26 he chaired the Iberian Conference in Madrid. On 27 he returned to Rome to take part in the meeting of European Provincials called by the Rector Major, and later the winter session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Italy Middle East Region

After the summer plenary session of the General Council had ended, in the month of July the Regional Councillor for Italy and the Middle East Fr Pier Fausto Frisoli, organised a series of National and Provincial meetings to transmit the 26th General Chapter. Between

4 and 6 July he gathered together in Rome the National Youth Ministry Services. On 6 and 7 he met the Provincial Council of the Sicily Province Afterwards between 11 and 15 he presided at the Italian Provincials' Conference (CISI) at Santeramo in Colle. On 16 and 17 he took part in the Provincial Council of the Southern Province. On 19 and 20 he presided at the celebrations for the World Youth Day in Sicily at Gela and at Colle Don Bosco for the Provinces of Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta, Liguria-Tuscany and Lombardy-Emilia. Between 28 and 31 he led the second stage of the Course for New Rectors from the Region.

In the month of August after visiting his parents, he took part in a Formation Course for Priests and Brothers of the quinquennium at Collevallenza and, afterwards, for confreres preparing for perpetual profession at Colle Don Bosco and in Messina. He then met the Rectors of the Southern Province at Pacognano on 29 August. On 30 in Turin he presided at the Mass for the installation of the new Superior of the Circumscription of Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta, Fr Stefano Martoglio.

On 1 September with the Rector Major he took part in the launching of the new "Sacred Heart"

Special Circumscription for Central Italy (ICC), with the installation of the new Superior, Fr Alberto Lorenzelli, and the new Provincial Council. On 3 September at Zafferana Etnea, he presided at Mass for the installation of the new Provincial of the Sicilian Province Fr Gianni Mazzali. On 14 at Colle Don Bosco he received the perpetual profession of some confreres. Between 15 and 17 he gathered together at Genzano the Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry and those responsible for the National Services, and launched a new Salesian Centre for Youth Ministry (CSPG). On 18 and 19 at the invitation of the *CNOS/Fap nazionale*, he took part in the Frankfurt International Fair, during which he gave a talk on "Don Bosco and vocational training."

Between 1 October and 26 November the Regional Councillor

carried out the first stage of the *Extraordinary Visitation of the "Blessed Michael Rua" Southern Province*, visiting in turn the communities of Santeramo in Colle, Taranto, Soverato, Vibo Valentia, Scutari and Tirana in Albania, Molfetta, Cerignola, Portici and Pacognano. The visit was interrupted by his taking part in the funeral of the Rector of the community of Lecce, Fr Franco Sacco. In addition he took part in the third and last stage of the Formation Course for Rectors from the Region. He presided at the second meeting of the Salesian Centre for Youth Ministry (CSPG). He then visited the Priština community in Kosovo.

On 26 November he returned to Rome to take part in the meeting of European Provincials called by the Rector Major in view of the "Project for Europe," launched by the GC26.

5. DOCUMENTS AND NEWS ITEMS

5.1 Letter of the Rector Major to Salesian Confreres for the celebration in 2009 of the 150th anniversary of the Founding of the Salesian Congregation

Below is the letter written by the Rector Major to Salesian Confreres, in view of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding by Don Bosco of the Salesian Congregation ("Society of Saint Francis of Sales").

Dear Confreres,

Now that we have concluded the 26th General Chapter, which was a real Pentecost for all of us, we are ready to experience and celebrate a new event of grace: the 150th anniversary of the foundation by Don Bosco of the Salesian Congregation.

On the evening of 18 December 1859 at the Oratory of Saint Francis in Don Bosco's room a group were gathered together, their intention "to promote and maintain the true charity that is needed in the work of the festive Oratories for youth abandoned and in danger"; as Fr Alasonatti writes in the minutes of this meeting. In the same minutes we then read: "The above mentioned participants decided therefore to band

themselves into a Society or Congregation while, while aiming at the sanctification of each member by mutual assistance would strive to promote God's glory and the salvation of souls, especially those in greater need of instruction and formation."

1859 therefore is the year of the birth of our Congregation. So I want to propose to all the Confreres that we live 2009 as a year of grace, remembering where we come from, who we are and where we are heading. With this celebration of our charismatic identity the pilgrimage of the casket of Don Bosco begins in all the Regions of our Congregation and in this way preparation starts for the bicentenary of his birth in 2015.

This event will be for all of us a spiritual and pastoral journey, that will begin with the Solemnity of Don Bosco on 31 January 2009, that will have as key moments the 24 June, his name-day, and the 16 August, his birthday, and will culminate on 18 December 2009 with the renewal of profession by all of us Salesians. We shall give special thanks to Mary on 25 May, the Solemnity of the Help of Christians. In this way we are given the opportunity to "start afresh from Don Bosco", Founder of our Con-

gregation, of the Salesian Family and of the vast Salesian Movement.

It is a question of taking to heart our identity as consecrated persons, dedicated by vow to the primacy of God and the following of Christ obedient, poor and chaste, totally at the disposal of the Spirit, and precisely on account of this totally dedicated to the young. It is an identity to be lived with joy and to be visibly demonstrated in evangelising zeal, in love for the salvation of souls, in pastoral enthusiasm, that draw their inspiration from Don Bosco's plan of life "da mihi animas, cetera tolle". Our identity therefore ought to be clearly seen in the fire of apostolic passion.

During 2009 we shall find the time and various ways to study, meditate on and pray the Constitutions. They indicate to us the way to be faithful to Don Bosco's charism and to our vocation. If during the course of the year we have gone over and re-discovered the goals of holiness traced out in our Rule of Life, then the renewal of profession on 18 December will be the fruit of a process of conversion and the starting point for a renewed offering of our lives to God for the young. The preparation and the celebration of per-

petual profession this year should be given particular weight. We will also devote ourselves to the study of the document of the GC26 in order to familiarise ourselves with the letter and to take up its spirit. The Chapter document is the face of the Congregation today.

From the beginning the Salesian Congregation was made up of those young men in the Oratory who were caught up in Don Bosco apostolic zeal and his plan of life. 2009 asks us to tell young people the story of the beginnings of the Congregation, about those who were the "co-founders" with Don Bosco, and also asks us to involve them more and more in the apostolic commitment to the salvation of other young people. The apostolic involvement of the young is the natural soil in which the Salesian consecrated vocation grows. So many young people in the world who start out from an apostolic commitment find themselves captivated by this vocation. Let us have the courage to propose to the young the consecrated Salesian vocation! It is my hope that this six-year period, starting from this occasion of the 150th anniversary of our Society, may really be a period of great vocational fruitfulness.

The Strenna for 2009 is also an encouragement for us to consider our role in the Salesian Family. Born 150 years ago as a Congregation, we are aware that our Father was thinking not only about us but had always wanted to create a "vast movement of persons who, in different ways, work for the salvation of the young" (C. 5). In this and in the Salesian Family we have particular responsibilities. We have been envisaged as evangelisers of the young and as animators of a charismatic family.

Right from now in personal, community and province formation and spiritual programmes. these particular suggestions can be kept in mind. In this regard I have set up a Commission, coordinated by the Councillor for Formation, which in the next few months will offer you some useful material on the subject.

May the Spirit of Christ inspire us on this path; may Mary Help of Christians sustain us with her motherly care; may Don Bosco be our model and intercede for us.

Cordially in the Lord,

Rome, 24 June 2008
Birth of St John the Baptist

Fr Pascual CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA
Rector Major

5.2 Modification to n. 105 of the "Criteria and norms for vocational discernment"

Below is a letter from the Councillor for Formation, Fr Francesco Cereda, concerning a modification to n. 105 of "Criteria and norms for vocation discernment."

I wish to communicate to you the decision of the Rector Major and the General Council to modify number 105 of "Criteria and norms for Salesian vocation discernment".

This number of "Criteria and norms" speaks of the elements that ought to be contained in any application for admission: to the novitiate, to first profession, to renewal of temporary profession, to perpetual profession, to the ministries and to sacred orders. Among these elements is mentioned "reference to talking with the Rector and to his agreement with its being made".

A provincial formation commission found the expression, "to his agreement with its being made", problematic and asked for it to be suppressed.

Decision. To avoid restrictive or juridically binding interpretations with regard to the freedom in making the application for admission, the Rector Major and the

General Council acceded to the request to eliminate “to his agreement with its being made” from number 105 of “Criteria and norms”, and at the same time reiterated that in this number the expression, “reference to talking with the Rector”, ought to be retained.

Motivation. In the process of admission it is the one in formation who must first carry out a discernment to ascertain whether he judges himself suitable or not for the Salesian vocation. In this discernment he receives help from the Rector and the confessor, and if he happens to be a person other than the Rector, from the spiritual director. Since these persons have been accompanying him, they are in a very good position to offer him their opinion, be it positive or negative. It is then up to the individual to take their advice into consideration with all due seriousness, assume his own responsibility before God and decide in his conscience whether he should, or should not, make his application. Therefore, he does not need the agreement of the Rector to make his application.

In Don Bosco

Fr Francesco CEREDA
Councillor for Formation

5.3 Additions and variations to the liturgical Calendar proper to the Salesians of Don Bosco

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, following a request presented by the Procurator General, in the name of the Rector Major, by means of the two Decrees N. 633/08/L and 1210/08/L of 27 October 2008 has ordered the following additions and/or variations in the Calendar proper to the Society of Saint Francis of Sales:

1. The celebration of **Blessed Zephyrinus Namuncurá**, on **26 August**, with the rank of *Optional Memorial (ad libitum)*.
2. The celebration of the Spanish Martyrs, Henry Sáiz and companions, beatified on 28 October 2007, on the same day as the Memorial already approved of the Blessed Joseph Calasanz and companions, celebrated on 22 September each year. Therefore in our liturgical Calendar for **22 September** there will be the *Memorial* of the **Blessed Joseph Calasanz, Henry Sáiz, priests, and Companions Martyrs**.

3. The celebration of the *optional Memorial of Saint Luigi Ori-one* is transferred from the present date (12 March) to **16 May**, the day on which the feast is celebrated by the Piccola Opera della Divina Provvidenza (Orionini)

NOTE:

It should be noted that in the *Parvum Calendarium SDB* for 2009 (which was printed in July 2008) the Memorial of the Blessed Spanish Martyrs is given on 6 November, since at one time the Congregation for Divine Worship had asked that the memorial be kept on the date set by the Spanish Bishops' Conference. Only later, (in October) the Vatican Congregation decided to keep the date that we proposed, that is **22 September**. This should be kept in mind for the celebration in 2009.

5.4 Decree regarding the virtues of Sister Maria Troncatti, FMA

Below is our translation in English (from the Italian) of the Decree on the Heroic Virtues of Sister Maria Troncatti FMA issued by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on 8 November 2008.

CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS

M É N D E Z

BEATIFICATION AND CANONISATION OF THE SERVANT OF GOD

MARIA TRONCATTI

PROFESSED SISTER
OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE DAUGHTERS
OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

(1883 - 1969)

DECREE ON THE VIRTUES

«There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him.» (Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum caritatis*, n. 84).

The life of the Servant of God Sister Maria Troncatti is seen to be marked in a special way by the mission, which in the earlier part of her life (until the age of about forty) was a spirit of zeal, and then the total giving of herself, until her death at the age of eighty six. Her great desire to bring Jesus to all those she met in every circumstance of life never diminished.

The Servant of God Maria Troncatti was born on 16 February 1883 at Córteno Golgi, a small -

village in the Province of Brescia. She received the sacrament of Confirmation while only a child of three years of age, and just turned six she was able to approach the table of the eucharist, thanks to her teacher who was able to recognise in her an open and lively intelligence and a precocious Christian conscience. The first encounter with the Bread of Life was a telling moment in the little girl's maturing as a Christian, as her heart was filled with an ineffable joy and she was guided by an almost natural spiritual instinct, so that from then on she began to attend daily Mass and with the greatest joy receive Holy Communion three times a week, as often as at the time was permitted.

Not yet sixteen, with enthusiasm she joined the Association of the Children of Mary which her parish priest had recently established. It was at this time that in the heart of the girl there was gradually growing the vocation to give herself through the total consecration of herself to God. But since her father would in no way agree to his daughter's wishes, because of her youth, it was only after she reached twenty years of age that he allowed her to be received as a Postulant in the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Chris-

tians. Her farewell to the family on 15 October (1905), had about it "the air of a funeral," as her relatives recalled: Maria's father fainted no sooner had she left the house without a backward glance.

Equally "wearing" for Sister Maria was the first period of her formation: her health formerly sound and strong, already began to cause problems even during the novitiate, which caused the Superiors who were about to decide her future some concern, but not the novice herself who now knew with sufficient certainty the path God wished her to take.

Sister Maria was therefore admitted to profession, even though "conditionally", and on 17 September 1908 she took her first annual vows. This was also a year in which her health grew stronger. The young Sister had a great love for a life of sacrifice and day after day progressed in the fervour of her self-donation. She writes: «We have to see God present in everything. God is close. Let us therefore speak to him in prayer and with perfect obedience.»

With the approach of the first world war Sister Maria was sent to Varazze to take a special course as a red cross nurse, and later with great diligence she carried out the work of attending to and comfort-

ing the wounded soldiers who arrived from the front: their sufferings made such an impression on her as to nourish a kind of new motherliness able to do everything in her power to soothe, to treat, to redeem and save. After the war she was sent to Nizza, the Mother House of the Institute, as a nurse and assistant in the oratory, a task she always carried out very willingly, quickly responding to everyone and providing what was needed even in emergencies.

During her fortieth year she achieved what she had wanted her whole life: the Superior General decided to send her to Ecuador with two very young co-Sisters. Together they left on 9 November 1922. The next forty-seven years of Sister Maria's life were indeed and in every sense of the word years of "mission," which she always kept in her heart and mind even during short holiday periods.

In a village called *Chunci* in the Andes, among the natives, Sister Maria fulfilled the role of the *doctor*, or "*physical mother*", in the language of the Indians, improvising a clinic and a small dispensary called the *botiquín*. Always available to everyone, she was kind and cared for bodies and souls.

In 1925 Sister Maria, with her small team, and a great leap for-

ward finally reached the Amazonian jungle and after many trials arrived in the mission near the village of *Méndez*. There waiting for the poor exhausted missionaries was a group of Indians armed with arrows, spears and knives who would allow them to enter only on one condition that they cured a teenage daughter of the chief who a few days earlier had been accidentally wounded in a fight with some enemies.

With very little preparation and with very limited means, while the group of missionaries prayed, Sister Maria cut into the girl's wound and almost as though by a hidden hand a bullet emerged. Full of joy the Indians immediately began to spread the word in the forest that a white woman had arrived, a great *Witch-doctor* who was to be given every assistance. After many other adventures they arrived at the sacred hill called *Macas*, which was the headquarters of the Vicariate Apostolic of Méndez, which had grown up around an ancient image of the Immaculate Virgin called locally the *Purísima*, which had been there for a least three centuries.

As time passed, Sister Maria began to extend her activities beyond Macas and across the river Upano, to the place where the ancient

'Sevilla de Oro' had flourished: she founded the Don Bosco di Sevilla mission, then that of Sucúa, in an "enchantingly beautiful valley, broad and full of light," between the Upano river and Tutanangoza. Already seventy years of age, in 1954 she had the joy of seeing the hospital she founded completed, no longer resting on fragile wooden beams but on solid walls, and she was happy to be able to gather the sick there and offer them treatment for their bodies and souls. However, the recurring epidemics of smallpox and measles were relentless: babies and children died causing fresh sorrow to her sensitive soul.

For the young women living in the hospital compound she organised nursing courses; for those outside courses in sewing, health and child care, and cookery lessons. In the years 1960-1962 she also began catechetics courses in marriage preparation. She was always very concerned about the education and progress of the women, who according to the tribal customs of the native *Shuar* were often considered the servants of the men who like all-powerful masters exploited them with very hard work and little or no regard for their pregnant state or for the care of the children.

Having reached the age of eighty and given up the direction of the hospital, Sister Maria continued in other ways to exercise her activity as an affectionate little mother or *abuelita* (granny) listening, advising, and helping people of all kinds, of all ages and conditions. So much so that when in 1969, the "Week of Farming Cooperatives" took place she noticed the first signs on the part of some of the colonists, of threats to the mission and the missionaries who were particularly involved in it. The atmosphere of intimidation reached its peak on 4 July, when one night in an act of arson a fierce fire destroyed the work of years in the mission of Sucúa. Sister Maria suffered deeply and prayed and begged the leaders of the *Shuar* Federation to calm down their more impetuous members and offered herself as a victim in order to achieve a peaceful settlement. Her Sisters heard her say: «These two tribes will never be reconciled until a victim is ready to sacrifice herself for them».

On 5 August, the feast of Our Lady of Macas – the *Purísima* – with great spiritual joy Sister Maria took part in the celebration (*fiesta jurada*). Then, speaking to one of her Sisters she shared a secret which was not to be revealed until it came true: "The Immaculate Vir-

gin has spoken to me, so that I am ready: soon in fact, something serious is going to happen to me.”

On 25 August, bidding farewell to the community to go to Quito to make her retreat, looking intently at the Sisters who were still upset, she re-assured them in unusually confident terms: «I promise you that peace and quiet will return very shortly.»

When she arrived at the airfield the little plane was ready to leave. She quickly said good bye to the Sisters who had come with her and boarded the plane. It was the take off for death: after a very short time there was a loud bang, followed by the sound of the siren from the control tower announcing the plane had crashed.

In this way the oblation of the victim was achieved. From that moment the grief of everyone – colonialists, natives, the people living in the region – became a single shared sorrow and a single expression of regret: «A saint is dead... Our *mamita* is no more!».

The spiritual life of Sister Maria Troncatti appears simple and modest, but profound, lived with a greatness of soul even in everyday events.

Because of the growing reputation for holiness, as the many *Letters connected with the cause* indi-

cate, the Vicar Apostolic of Méndez, with the agreement of the Equatorial Bishops' Conference, in the years 1986-1987 held the Diocesan Enquiry, according to the directives of the Holy See as prescribed in the Constitution *Divinus perfectionis Magister* and the Norms issued in 1983. The authority and the juridical validity of the Diocesan Enquiry were recognised by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints with a decree dated 7 July 1989, with the proviso that there should be a Process of enquiry in the places where the Servant of God lived before going to the missions. This Process took place in Brescia in 1989 and obtained the recognition of its authority and the juridical validity from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints with a decree dated 25 May 1990.

The *Positio* having been prepared in 1997, as is customary, on 2 May 2008 in the Special Meeting of the Theological consultants the question was discussed and answered positively as to whether the Servant of God had exercised the Christian virtues in an heroic manner. The Cardinals and Bishops assembled in an ordinary session on 7 October 2008, listened to the report of His Lordship Bishop Gerolamo Grillo, retired Bishop of Civitavecchia-Tarquinia, the Pro-

ponent of the Cause, declare that the Servant of God exercised in an heroic way the theological virtues, the cardinal virtues and the others connected with them.

A careful report of everything having be presented to the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI by the undersigned Prefect, His Holiness, accepting and ratifying the opinions expressed by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, to-day declared that:

«It is certain that the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity towards God and towards her neighbour, the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude and the other virtues associated with these were practised to an heroic degree by the Servant of God Maria Troncatti, professed Religious of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, in the case and for the purpose here concerned.»

The Supreme Pontiff therefore ordered that the present decree be published and preserved among the acts of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Given in Rome on 8 November in the year of the Lord 2008.

† ANGELO AMATO, SDB
Prefect

† MICHELE DI RUBERTO
Secretary

5.5 The new General Council

The 26th General Chapter, in the elections held between 25 and 28 March 2008 elected the Rector Major (25 March), his Vicar (on the same day) and the other members of the General Council (on the days 26-28 March), for the six-year period 2008-2014.

Here, for the official record, is the composition of the General Council:

Fr Pascual CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA
Rector Major

Fr Adriano BREGOLIN
Vicar of the Rector Major

Fr Francesco CEREDA
Councillor for Formation

Fr Fabio ATTARD
Councillor for Youth Ministry

Fr Fiiberto GONZÁLEZ PLASENCIA
*Councillor for Social Communi-
cation*

Fr Václav KLEMENT
Councillor for the Missions

Bro. Claudio MARANGIO
Economer General

Fr Guillermo BASAÑES
*Councillor for the Africa and
Madagascar Region*

Fr Pier Fausto FRISOLI
Councillor for the Italy and Middle East Region

Fr Maria Arokiam KANAGA
Councillor for the South Asia Region

Fr José Miguel NÚÑEZ MORENO
Councillor for the West Europe Region

Fr Esteban ORTIZ GONZÁLEZ
Councillor for the Interamerica Region

Fr Štefan TURASKÝ
Councillor for the North Europe Region

Fr Natale VITALI
Councillor for the Latin America Region - South Cone

Fr Andrew WONG
Councillor for the East Asia - Oceania Region

Fr Marian STEMPEL was confirmed by the Rector Major as the *Secretary of the Council*.

Some information follows regarding the Councillors who are joining the General Council for the first time.

– Fr ATTARD Fabio, *Councillor for Youth Ministry*.

Fr Fabio Attard was born 23 March 1959 in Gozo (Malta) and has been a Salesian since 8 September 1980, the date of his first profession, at the end of his novitiate made in Dublin (Ireland). Perpetually professed on 11 August 1985, he studied theology in Rome-UPS and was ordained a priest in Malta on 4 July 1987.

After ordination he studied at the Alphonsus Academy in Rome, obtaining a Licence in Moral Theology.

Having returned to Malta, he worked for three years (1989-1991) in Manouba, Tunisia. Afterwards he was appointed Rector in Sliema - St. Alphonsus (Malta), and then Rector in Sliema - St. Patrick (1994-1996). He was then appointed to the house in Dingli. At the same time he continued his studies and in 1999 obtained the Doctorate (*Doctor Divinitatis*) in Dublin, Ireland, at the "Milltown Institute of Philosophy and Theology". He was then appointed to the U.P.S. as lecturer, until 2005, when he returned to Malta, as Delegate for Formation. Here he founded and was Director of the Diocesan Institute for Pastoral Formation.

On 27 March 2008 the GC26 elected him General Councillor for Youth Ministry.

– *Fr GONZÁLEZ PLASENCIA Filiberto, Councillor for Social Communication.*

Born on 22 August 1954 at Milpillas-Tepatitlán, Mexico, Fr Filiberto González Plascencia made his first profession as a Salesian on 1 October 1974 at Guadalajara. Perpetually professed on 28 September 1980, he was ordained priest on 11 December 1982 in the San Pedro Tlaquepaque studentate of theology.

After ordination he began his pastoral ministry as socius in the Novitiate of Chula Vista (while at the same time he was completing his studies in the Higher Institute of Education, specialising in Pedagogy). In 1987 he moved to the “Colón Institute” in Zamora, where he remained for two years until 1989 when he went to Rome to the Salesian Pontifical University where he obtained a Licence in Social Communication. Having returned to his Province, in 1992 he was appointed to the postnovitiate at México-Huipulco with the roles of teacher and at the same time community bursar. In 1993 he became a member of the Provincial Council and was appointed Provincial Delegate for Youth Ministry, moving to the Provincial House in Guadalajara, where he remained

until 2001, when he returned to Chula Vista as Rector and Director of Novices and then in 2004 to México-Huipulco as Rector of the postnovitiate. It should be mentioned that he was a member of the National Team of the Mexican Bishops (CEMPAJ) of those responsible for Youth Ministry in the three year period 1995-1998 and that he took part in the 24th General Chapter as Delegate for the Province. In 2006 the Rector Major with his Council appointed him Provincial of the Guadalajara Province.

Now the GC26 on 27 March 2008 elected him General Councillor for Social Communication.

– *Bro. MARANGIO Claudio, Economist General.*

Brother Claudio Marangio was born on 17 February 1965 at Busto Arsizio, in the Province of Varese, Italy. Having completed his secondary school studies with technical diploma, in 1984 he entered the novitiate at Pinerolo, and made his first profession on 8 September 1985 as a Salesian Brother, at Colle Don Bosco. The postnovitiate followed in Rome-San Tarcisio, and then he pursued studies in spirituality attending the U.P.S., and also in the area of Economics. In 1999 he obtained a

degree in Economics and Commerce from "La Sapienza" University in Rome.

In 1996 he was appointed to the house of Turin-Leumann, where he held the position of Administrative Director of the Elledici.

In 2002 he was appointed Provincial Economist of the Special Circumscription of Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta (ICP).

Invited to take part in the GC26, he was elected by the Chapter Economist General on 26 March 2008.

– *Fr BASAÑES Guillermo, Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region*

Born on 19 October 1965 in Washington D.C. (USA), Fr Guillermo Basañes made his first profession as a Salesian on 31 January 1986 in the Buenos Aires Province where he completed the first cycle of formation. Perpetually professed on 24 November 1991, in 1992 he left for Africa, appointed to Angola. Having completed theological studies in the theologate in Lubumbashi (Congo R.D.), he was ordained priest at San Isidro - Santa Isabel, in Argentina, on 12 August 1995.

After ordination to the priesthood, he returned to Angola, to

Luanda "Dom Bosco" - Palanca, where he exercised his ministry. Between 1998 and 2001 he was in Rome at the U.P.S., where he obtained the Licence in Educational Psychology. Having returned to Angola, in 2001 he was appointed Rector of the formation community in Luanda "Dom Bosco" - Palanca. In 2003 he was appointed Vicar of the Superior of the Vice Province and Delegate for Formation.

On 15 October 2005 the Rector Major with his Council appointed him Superior of the Vice Province of Angola.

Now the GC26 on 28 March 2008 elected him General Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region.

– *Fr KANAGA Maria Arokiam, Councillor for the South Asia Region.*

Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga was born on 4 October 1956 at Varadarajanpet, Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu, India) and became a Salesian on 24 May 1976, the date of his first profession made in the novitiate at Yercaud. Perpetually professed on 24 May 1982, he studied theology at the U.P.S. in Rome where he was ordained priest on 25 May 1986.

After ordination he continued studies at the U.P.S. and obtained a Doctorate in Philosophy.

Having returned to his Province (INM) in India, he was appointed as a teacher in the studentate of philosophy at Yercaud (1988-1992). In April 1992 he was appointed Rector of the community of Tirupattur - Don Bosco, and afterwards in 1994 Rector in Madras - Poonamallee-Seminary. In 1996 he was appointed Vice Provincial of the Madras Province, a responsibility he carried out for six years until 2002. He then spent a year (2002-2003) as Rector in Yercaud and from 2003 he was Rector of Tirupattur - Sacred Heart College.

Elected as Delegate of the INM to the GC26, he was elected by the Chapter on 28 March 2008 General Councillor for the South Asia Region.

– *Fr NÚÑEZ MORENO José Miguel, Councillor for the West Europe Region.*

Fr José Miguel Núñez Moreno was born on 7 May 1963 at Arroyo de San Serván (Badajoz, Spain). At the end of the novitiate in Sanlúcar la Mayor (Seville), he made his first profession as a Salesian on 16 August 1983. After post-

novitiate and practical training he was sent to Rome, to the Salesian Pontifical University for theological studies. Perpetually professed on 15 August 1989, he was ordained priest in Seville on 21 June 1992. Afterwards he obtained the Licence and the Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology at the U.P.S. (1993); the Licence in Philosophy at the University of Granada (1995); and the Research Diploma [Philosophy] at the University of Seville (2002).

After ordination to the priesthood he worked for two years in the house of Sanlúcar la Mayor (1993-1994), and was then transferred to the community of Seville - Theologians as Rector for six years (1994-2000). In 2000 he moved as Rector to the Provincial House of Seville. Provincial Councillor from 1994, in 2003 he was appointed Vice Provincial and Delegate for Youth Ministry.

On 7 May 2006 the Rector Major appointed him Provincial of the “Mary Help of Christians” Province with headquarters in Seville (the Province which resulted from the amalgamation of the two Provinces of Córdoba and Seville).

Now on 28 March the GC26 elected him General Councillor for the West Europe Region.

– *Fr TURASKÝ Štefan, Councilor for the North Europe Region.*

Fr Štefan Turanský was born on 11 September 1956 at Selenca (in what was then Yugoslavia), son of Slovak emigrants from Czechoslovakia. He made his first profession as a Salesian at Lanuvio (Rome Province), where he had made his year of novitiate. He continued his postnovitiate and theological studies in Italy. Perpetually professed on 18 September 1983, he was ordained priest on 27 July 1985 at Selenca, his birth place.

After ordination to the priesthood he spent a year at the UPS, where he obtained a Licence in Theology and then between 1986 and 1990 he worked in the Salesian community of Slovaks in Rome. Having returned to Slovakia, he was Provincial Secretary (1990-1991) and from 1993 Provincial Councillor. He worked for eleven years in the community of Žilina - San Tommaso, as Principal of the Postnovitiate, as Vice Rector and then as Rector. In 1999 he obtained the Doctorate in Theology. Between 2002 and 2005 he was Rector of Bratislava - Dúbravka.

On 15 August 2005 the Rector Major and his Council appointed him Provincial of Slovakia.

Now on 28 March 2008 the GC26 elected him General Councilor for the North Europe Region.

– *Fr VITALI Natale, Councillor for the Latin America Region - South Cone.*

Fr Natale Vitali, was born at Montappone, in the Province of Ascoli Piceno, Italy on 14 May 1955, and made his first profession as a Salesian on 12 September 1972. After philosophical studies, during practical training he left for Chile and joined the Chilean Province. Here he made his perpetual profession on 11 June 1978. Then he pursued his theological studies in the studentate of Santiago-La Florida, where he was ordained priest on 31 July 1982 by Cardinal Raúl Silva Henríquez, SDB.

After ordination, he engaged in educative-pastoral work, first in Punta Arenas - Don Bosco (1983-1985), then in Concepción (1986). In 1986 he was appointed Rector of Talca - El Salvador, and then in 1991 Rector of Santiago - La Gracitud Nacional. Provincial Councillor from 1990, in 1993 he was appointed Vice Provincial and Rector of the Provincial House.

In 1994 the Rector Major with his Council appointed him Provin-

cial, the office he held from 1 January 1995 until August 2000. At the end of the six-year period he was assigned to the house of Puerto Montt, as Rector and parish priest. In July 2007 the Rector Major once again entrusted him with the guidance of the Province of Chile as Provincial.

Now on 28 March 2008 the GC26 elected him General Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone. Region.

– *Fr WONG Andrew, Councillor for the East Asia - Oceania Region.*

Born on 30 November 1952 in Manila, in the Philippines, Fr Andrew Wong made his first profession on 1 May 1972 at Canlubang, where he had made his novitiate and where he also did his post-novitiate studies. For practical training he was in the aspirantate in San Fernando, and then he did his theological studies in the St Thomas University in Manila. Perpetually professed on 22 March 1978, he was ordained priest in Manila on 7 December 1979.

After ordination he was soon involved in the area of formation. After some years in the studentate of theology at Parañaque, he was appointed Director of Novices in the Canlubang novitiate, a posi-

tion he continued to hold – as well as that of Rector – at Bacolod-Granada, in Southern Philippines when the novitiate was transferred there (1991). In 1992 he became a member of the Provincial Council of Southern Philippines.

In 1994 the Superiors sent him to the Vice Province of Indonesia - East Timor. After a year as Rector of the formation community in Jakarta, in 1995 he was appointed Rector and Director of Novices in the novitiate at Fatumaca (East Timor), a position he held until 1998, when he was appointed Superior of the Vice Province of Indonesia - East Timor. At the end of the six-year period, on 19 March 2005 the Rector Major with his Council appointed him Provincial of North Philippines.

Now on 28 March 2008 the GC26 elected him General Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania. Region.

5.6 New Provincials

Below (in alphabetical order and with the month of the appointment) are some biographical details of Provincials appointed by the Rector Major and his Council in December 2007 and in the course of 2008.

APPOINTED IN DECEMBER 2007

1. **FERNANDES** *Michael*,
Provincial of the Province of
MUMBAI (India).

To guide the "Saint Francis Xavier" Province of Mumbai, India, Fr *Michael Fernandes* has been chosen. He succeeds Fr Ivo Coelho.

Born on 2 October 1956 at Bandra-Bombay (India), he became a Salesian on 24 May 1975, when he made his first religious profession at the novitiate in Yercaud. Perpetually professed on 24 May 1982, he was ordained a priest on 21 December 1985.

After ordination to the priesthood he exercised his ministry in various houses of the Province: at Dakor (1986-1994), as parish priest and then as Rector; then he was at Kapadvanj for two years. Between 1996 and 2001 he was in Rome where he obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law at the "St Thomas" Pontifical University. On his return to India, between 2002 and 2007 he was Rector in Pune - Koregaon Park. From 2004 he was also a Provincial Councillor.

2. **OSANGER** *Rudolf*, *Provincial of the Province of AUSTRIA.*

Fr *Rudolf Osanger* succeeds Fr Franz Wöß as Provincial of the

"Holy Guardian Angels Province" with headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

He was born in Scheibbs (Austria) on 8 June 1950 and made his first profession as a Salesian on 15 August 1967 in the novitiate at Oberthalheim. Perpetually professed on 15 August 1976, he was ordained priest on 29 April 1978.

After ordination he was in the house in Klagenfurt - St. Joseph, where he worked until 1986. Between 1986 and 1994 he was in the Provincial House in Vienna. After a short period spent in Rome at the UPS, in 1995 the Superiors sent him once again to Klagenfurt-St. Joseph as parish priest; in 1998 he was also appointed Rector of the community, until 2007 when he was transferred as Rector to the Provincial House in Vienna. Now he leads the Province.

APPOINTED IN JANUARY 2008

3. **ASURMENDI MARTÍNEZ**
Ángel, *Provincial of the Province of BARCELONA (Spain)*

Fr *Ángel Asurmendi Martínez* is the new Superior of the "Our Lady of Ransom" Province of Barcelona, Spain. He succeeds Fr Joan Codina.

Born on 27 February 1952 at Mendavia (Navarre, Spain), he

made his first profession as a Salesian on 16 August 1971, perpetual profession on 15 June 1980, and was ordained priest in Barcelona on 29 May 1983.

After ordination he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry in the house of Huesca (1983-1990), Barcelona-Rocafort (1990-1995), Barcelon-Horta College (1995-1996). In 1995 he obtained the Licence in Pedagogy. Afterwards he was Rector in the house of Barcelona-Sant Vicenç del Horts (1996-2000), and then in that of Barcelona-Sarrià (2000-2006). In 2002 he became a member of the Provincial Council and from 2006 he has been Vice Provincial.

4. *ELLICHERAIL Thomas, Provincial of the Province of CALCUTTA (India)*

As Provincial of the "Saint John Bosco" Province of Calcutta, Fr *Thomas Ellicherail* has been appointed. He succeeds Fr John Berger.

Born on 3 March 1951 at Malikassery (Kerala, India), he became a Salesian on 7 June 1972, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 2 June 1978, he was ordained priest on 2 June 1985 in Rome, where he then continued his studies at the "Saint

Anselm" Pontifical University obtaining a Licence in Liturgy.

On his return to India, he was sent to the studentate in Sonada, as teacher and Vice Rector and then became Rector (1994-2000). Between 2002 and 2008 he was Rector of the community of Kalyani - Vidyaniketan. From 2003 he was also a member of the Provincial Council.

5. *FISTAROL Orestes Carlinhos, Provincial of the Province of PORTO ALEGRE (Brazil)*

To guide the Porto Alegre Province (Brazil) Fr *Orestes Carlinhos Fistarol*, has been appointed to succeed Fr José Valmor Cesar Teixeira.

Born at Guaricanas, SC (Brazil) on 12 April 1966, Fr Orestes Fistarol became a Salesian on 8 January 1984. Perpetually professed on 11 January 1990, he was ordained priest on 13 December 1992.

After ordination, he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry in the houses of Rio Grande (1985-1986), Ponta Grossa (1986-1992), Curitiba-Istituto (1992-1993), Ascurra (1993-1994). In the years 1995-1996 he was in Rome where he obtained a Licence in Philosophy. Having returned to

the Province he was first Vice Rector and then Rector at Curitiba-Instituto. Between 2002 and 2008 he was Vice Provincial and Rector of the Provincial House in Porto Alegre.

6. *ONRUBIA MIGUEL Luis, Provincial of the Province of MADRID (Spain)*

Fr *Luis Onrubia Miguel* is the new Provincial of the "Saint John Bosco" Province of Madrid. He succeeds Fr Luis Manuel Moral Lamela.

Born on 23 February 1957 at Boceguillas, Segovia (Spain), he made his first profession on 16 August 1974, his perpetual profession on 13 May 1982 and was ordained priest 28 April 1984.

After ordination for two years he was in Rome-UPS, obtaining a Licence in Philosophy. He was to be in Rome again in 1995. Between 1986 and 1991 he was in the community of Salamanca-Filosofado, then between 1991 and 1994 in the community of Burgos-Postnovitiate as Vice Rector, then between 1995 and 2001 in the same community as Rector. After a year in Madrid-Puente de Vallecas, in 2003 he was appointed Rector of Madrid-Carabanchel-Residencia. In 2002 he became a member of the Provincial

Council. In the three year period 2005-2008 he was Rector of the house in Mohernando.

7. *SHINOHARA Lauro, Provincial of the Province of CAMPO GRANDE (Brazil)*

Fr *Lauro Shinohara* is the new Provincial of the "St. Alphonsus Mary de' Liguori" Province with headquarters in Campo Grande, Brazil. He succeeds Fr Afonso de Castro.

He was born on 17 March 1948 in Buriti, Alto Castillo, São Paulo (Brazil) and became a Salesian on 31 January when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 30 January 1977, he was ordained priest on 15 December 1979.

After ordination he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry in various houses. Between 1985 and 1991 he was Rector of the house in Coxipó da Ponte. In 1988 he was appointed a Provincial Councillor. In the year 1991-1992 he was at Rome-UPS, where he obtained a Licence in Education. Having returned to Brazil, he was Director of Novices, and then also Rector of the novitiate at Dourados-Indápolis, until December 1999. Between 2000 and 2008 he was in the Provincial House at Campo Grande as Vice Provincial, Rector

of the community and then also Provincial Secretary.

8. *FARIA DOS SANTOS Nilson*,
*Provincial of the Province of Be-
lo Horizonte (Brazil)*

To succeed Fr Ovidio Zancanella in guiding the “Saint John Bosco” Province of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) Fr *Nilson Faria dos Santos* has been appointed

Born in Niterói, RJ (Brazil) on 27 November 1949, he became a Salesian on 31 January 1970, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 31 January 1976, he was ordained priest in Niterói on 17 December 1977.

After ordination, he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry in various houses with posts of responsibility. He was successively Rector of Silvânia (1978-1981, Belo Horizonte-Domingos Savio (1989-1990), Belo Horizonte-Colégio (1991-1992), Recife-Bongi Postnovitiate (1992-1995), Belo Horizonte-Studentate of Theology (1998-2002). Between 2003 and 2005 he was at Rome-UPS to complete his studies (Licence in Theology and Sacred Scripture). In 2006 he was appointed Vice Provincial a position he held until his appointment as Provincial.

APPOINTED IN APRIL 2008

9. *NAM Sang Hun Stephanus*,
*Provincial of the Province of
KOREA.*

Fr *Nam Sang Hun Stephanus* is the new Provincial of the “Holy Korean Martyrs” Province of Korea. He succeeds Fr Paul Hwang.

He was born in Seoul (South Korea) on 21 April 1959 and made his first profession as a Salesian on 24 January 1987. Perpetually professed on 18 January 1992, he studied theology at Benediktbeuern, in Germany; he was ordained priest on 29 June 1995 in Seoul.

After ordination he continued his studies in Germany, between 1995 and 2000, living in the Salesian house of München - St. Wolfgang and attending Munich University where he obtained the Licence and the Doctorate in Philosophy. Having returned to Korea, he was assigned to the house of Kwangju - Shin An Dong first as Vice Rector then as Rector (2004-2008). In 2001 he became a member of the Provincial Council, and was successively Provincial Delegate for Formation and for Education and Culture.

10. *SPREAFICO Maurizio, Provincial of the Province of MIDDLE EAST*

To guide the "Jesus Adolescent" Province of the Middle East Fr *Maurizio Spreafico* has been appointed to succeed Fr *Gianmaria Gianazza*.

Born in Monza (Italy) on 24 October 1960, Fr *Maurizio Spreafico* made his first profession in the Lombardy-Emilian Province, Italy on 8 September 1980. Perpetually professed on 21 September 1986, he was ordained priest on 2 July 1988.

After ordination, he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry for six years (1991-1997) in the community of Milano-San Carlo (Provincial House). Then from 1997 until 2003 he was in the community of the Youth Ministry Centre (CNOS) in Rome.

In 2003 he was transferred to the Middle East Province and was assigned first to Cairo-Zeitun, in Egypt (2003-2005), and then to Aleppo (Syria), as Vice Rector of the community from September 2005 until his appointment as Provincial.

11. *STEFANI Luciano, Provincial of the Province of VENEZUELA.*

Fr *Luciano Stefani* succeeds Fr *Jonny Reyes* at the helm of the

"Saint Luke" Province of Venezuela.

Born on 23 May 1942 at Carrara San Giorgio (Padua, Italy), Fr *Luciano Stefani* left as a young man for Venezuela, where he made his novitiate, and his first profession on 26 August 1961. Perpetually professed on 31 August 1967, he was ordained priest on 18 April 1971.

After ordination, he exercised his educative and pastoral ministry in various houses in the Province of Venezuela, with roles of responsibility in: Los Teques-Santa Maria (1971-1975); San Antonio de los Altos as Director of Novices and Rector (1976-1985); Caracas-Provincial House (1985-1991); again in San Antonio de los Altos as Director of Novices and Rector (1991-1997); then Rector in Barinas (1997-2004) and finally Rector in Carrasquero-El Molinete (2004-2008). Between 1985 and 1991 he was a Provincial Councillor.

APPOINTED
IN THE SESSION OF JUNE 2008

12. *CRUZ Eligio, Provincial of the Province of NORTH PHILIPPINES*

To guide the "Saint John Bosco" Province of the North Philippines

Fr *Eligio Cruz* has been appointed. He succeeds Fr Andrew Wong, elected by the GC26 as General Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania. Region

Fr *Eligio Cruz* was born on 23 September 1960 in Bacalod City (Philippines) and became a Salesian on 1 April 1980, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 24 January 1987, he was ordained priest on 31 January 1990.

After ordination, he was assigned to the community of the studentate in Parañaque until 1991. He then moved to Mandaluyong (1991-1997), and then to Makati-Don Bosco (1997-1998). He was then appointed Rector of Quezon City (1999-2002) and afterwards of Mandaluyong from 2002 until his appointment as Provincial. From 2005 he was Provincial Delegate for Social Communication and from 2007 a member of the Provincial Council.

13. *D'SOUZA Joaquim, Superior of the U.P.S. Vice Province*

As Superior of the "Mary Seat of Wisdom" Vice Province of the Salesian Pontifical University Fr *Joaquim D'Souza*, has been appointed at the end of his term of office as General Regional Coun-

cillor. He succeeds Fr Giuseppe Nicolussi.

Born on 22 March 1945 at Parel-Bombay (Maharashtra, India), Fr *Joaquim D'Souza* made his first profession on 24 May 1963, perpetual profession on 24 May 1971 and was ordained priest on 20 December 1975.

He was elected General Councillor for the Asia Region by the GC24 on 2 April 1996 and confirmed by the GC25 on 8 April 2002.

Some other biographical information may be found in the AGC 357, n. 5.3.

14. *ENGER Joseph, Provincial of the Province of FRANCE-SOUTH BELGIUM*

Fr *Joseph Enger*, formerly Provincial of the French Province has been called to guide – as Provincial – the new "Saint Francis of Sales" Province of France-South Belgium.

Born on 26 November 1939 at Batzendorf, Bas-Rhin, France, he became a Salesian on 4 September 1959, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 30 June 1965, he was ordained priest at Batzendorf on 8 December 1968.

In 2005 he was appointed Provincial of the French Province (after

the amalgamation of the Provinces of Lyon and Paris) Now the Rector Major and his Council have entrusted him with the task of Superior of the new Province, following the amalgamation of the Provinces of France and South Belgium.

Some other biographical information may be found in the AGC 389, n. 5.6.

15. *FARFÁN PACHECO Marcelo, Provincial of the Province of ECUADOR.*

Fr *Marcelo Farfán Pacheco* is the new Provincial of the "Sacred Heart" Province of Ecuador. He succeeds Fr *Francisco Sánchez*.

He was born on 2 December 1963 at Cuenca (Azuay, Ecuador). He made his first profession as a Salesian on 31 January 1983 and perpetual profession on 29 January 1989. He was ordained priest in Cuenca on 27 June 1992.

After ordination he was assigned to the house in Zumbagua, where he exercised his pastoral ministry until 1996, when he was transferred to the Postnovitiate in Quito as Rector. At the end of his term of office, following a years break, in 2006 he was again appointed Rector of the same Postnovitiate house, until his present appointment as Provincial.

16. *LORENZELLI Alberto, Superior of the Circumscription CENTRAL ITALY.*

Fr *Alberto LORENZELLI*, formerly Provincial of the Liguria-Tuscany Province has been appointed by the Rector Major and his Council Superior of the new "Sacred Heart," Special Circumscription the result of the amalgamation of the Italian Provinces - Adriatic, Liguria-Tuscany and Roman, and the Vice Province of Sardinia.

Born on 2 September 1953 in San Juan Matanza (Argentina), he became a Salesian in the Liguria-Tuscany Province on 24 September 1973, was perpetually professed on 15 September 1977, and ordained priest on 24 January 1981. Fr *Alberto Lorenzelli* was appointed Provincial of the Liguria-Tuscany Province in 2002. Since November 2005 he has been President of the Conference of Italian Major Superiors.

Some other biographical information may be found in the AGC 379, n. 5.6.

17. *MANÍK Karol, Provincial of the Province of SLOVAKIA.*

To lead the "Mary Help of Christians" Province of Slovakia Fr *Karol Maník*, has been appointed.

He succeeds Fr Štefan Turanský elected by the GC26 General Councillor for the North Europe Region.

Fr Karol Maník was born on 3 October 1967 at Prešov and became a Salesian on 31 January 1990, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 17 February 1995, he was ordained priest on 12 August 1995.

After ordination he worked for a year in the house of Bratislava - Miletičova (1995-1996), and then was sent to the house of Bratislava - Mamateyova, first as Vice Rector and then as Rector (1998-2004). In 2002 he was appointed a member of the Provincial Council. In 2005 he was appointed Vice Provincial. Now he assumes the leadership of the Province.

18. *MARTOGLIO Stefano, Superior of the Circumscription
PIEDMONT AND VAL
D'AOSTA.*

Fr *Stefano Martoglio* is the new Superior of the "Mary Help of Christians" Special Circumscription of Piedmont and the Val d'Aosta. He succeeds Fr Pietro Migliasso.

He was born on 30 November 1965 in Turin, made his first religious profession as a Salesian on 8 September 1985, perpetual profes-

sion on 27 September 1992, and was ordained priest in Turin on 11 June 1994.

After ordination, he worked for four years (1994-1998) in the novitiate at Pinerolo. He was then transferred to Turin - Valdocco, where he was engaged successively in the houses of Valdocco - Saint Dominic Savio (1998-2003), Valdocco - Provincial House (2003-2004), Valdocco - Oratory of St. Francis of Sales, as Rector from 2004 until his present appointment as Provincial. Between 1999 and 2004 he was a Provincial Councillor.

19. *MAZZALI Giovanni, Provincial of the Province of SICILY.*

As Provincial of the "Saint Paul" Province of Sicily the Rector Major with his Council has appointed Fr *Giovanni Mazzali*, at the end of his term of office as Economer General. He succeeds Fr Vito Luigi Perrelli.

Born on 1 February 1947 in Turin, Fr *Giovanni Mazzali* made his first profession as a Salesian on 16 August 1964, perpetual profession on 15 August 1970 and was ordained priest on 7 December 1974.

He was elected Economer General by the GC24 on 20 March

1996 and confirmed in the same office by the GC25 on 6 April 2002.

Some other biographical information may be found in AGC 357 n. 5.3.

20. **MURGUIA VILLALOBOS**
*Salvador Cleofás, Provincial
of the Province of GUADALAJARA, Mexico.*

To lead the "Christ the King and Mary Help of Christians" Province of Guadalajara, Mexico, Fr *Salvador Cleofás Murguia Vallalobos*, has been appointed. He succeeds Fr Filiberto González Plasencia, elected by the GC26 General Councillor for Social Communication.

Born on 25 September 1953 at León (Gto. - Mexico), he became a Salesian on 1 October 1974, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 28 September 1980, he was ordained priest on 11 December 1982.

After ordination, he worked in the house of Tlaquepaque-Pastoral Centre where he was also Rector, and afterwards as Rector in Guadalajara - Chapalita "ISOV". In 1991 until June 1992 he was in Rome-UPS for studies. Having returned to the Province he was Rector of the house of México-Huipulco (1992-1997). Then for a year he

was in the Centre in Berkeley (USA). Afterwards he was Rector and Director of Novices at Chula Vista (1999-2001). In 2001 he was appointed Vice Provincial a role he held until 2007. At the end of his term in office as Vice Provincial he had become Rector of the studentate of Theology in Tlaquepaque. Now he takes on the leadership of the Province.

21. **RODRÍGUEZ MARTÍN** *Filiberto, Superior of the Vice Province of ANGOLA.*

The Rector Major with his Council has appointed Superior of the "Mamá Muxima" Vice Province of Angola Fr *Filiberto Rodríguez Martín*, at the end of his term of office as General Councillor for the West Europe Region. He succeeds Fr Guillermo Basañes, elected by the GC26 General Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region.

Born on 8 November 1942 at Valsalabroso (Salamanca, Spain), Fr Filiberto Rodríguez made his first profession as a Salesian on 16 August 1960, perpetual profession on 17 July 1966 and was ordained priest in Salamanca on 22 February 1970.

He was elected General Councillor for the West Europe Region by

GC24 on 2 April 1996 and confirmed in the same office by the GC25 on 8 April 2002.

Some other biographical information may be found in AGC 357 n. 5.3.

22. RUIZ MILLÁN Francisco,
Provincial of the Province of SEVILLE, Spain.

Fr Francisco Ruiz Millán is the new Provincial of the "May Help of Christians" Province with headquarters in Seville, Spain. He succeeds *Fr José Miguel Núñez Moreno*, elected by the GC26 General Councillor for the West Europe Region.

He was born on 24 January 1962 in Córdoba (Spain), made his first profession on 29 August 1982, in the Province of Córdoba (Spain), perpetual profession on 15 August 1988 and was ordained priest on 15 June 1991.

After ordination, he was assigned to the house in Córdoba-Cartuja, where he remained for two years. In 1993 he was appointed Rector of the house of Córdoba-Aspirantate and afterwards Rector of Córdoba-Colégio. In 1996 he was appointed a member of the Provincial Council of Córdoba. In 2006, after the amalgamation of the two Provinces of Cór-

doba and Seville, he was appointed Vice Provincial the office he held until he was appointed Provincial.

23. SANTIBÁÑEZ MARTÍNEZ
Leonardo, Provincial of the Province of CHILE.

To lead the "Saint Gabriel the Archangel" Province of Chile *Fr Leonardo Santibáñez Martínez*, has been appointed to succeed *Fr Natale Vitali*, elected by the GC26 General Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone Region.

Born on 22 May 1944 at La Cisterna (Santiago, Chile), he became a Salesian on 31 January 1962, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 31 December 1967, he was ordained priest in Santiago on 6 November 1971.

After ordination he completed his studies obtaining the Licence in Education. He was Rector of the house in Valparaíso (1981-1983), then for a short time at Santiago-La Florida-Studentate of Philosophy. In November 1984 he was appointed a member of the Provincial Council. Afterwards he was Rector in a number of communities: Santiago-Provincial House (1984-1986), Santiago-La Gratitude Nacional (1986-1992), Santiago-Patrocínio (1996-1998), Santiago-La Florida-Theologate (2000-

2006). Between 1996 and 2000 he was Vice Grand Chancellor of the Blas Cañas University in Santiago. In 2006 he was appointed Vice Provincial, the office he held until his appointment as Provincial.

24. *STURLA Daniel, Provincial of the Province of URUGUAY.*

Fr *Daniel Sturla* succeeds Fr Juan M. Algorta as Provincial of the "Saint Joseph" Province of Uruguay. He succeeds Fr Juan M. Algorta.

He was born on 4 July 1959 in Montevideo and became a Salesian on 31 January 1980, when he made his first profession. Perpetually professed on 31 January 1986, he was ordained priest in Montevideo on 21 November 1987.

After ordination he was sent to the community of the Theologate in Montevideo, where he worked until 1992. In 1992 he was transferred to the Novitiate house, from where in 1994 he moved to become Rector of the Montevideo-Aspirantate. In 1996 he returned to the Novitiate in Montevideo as Rector and Director of novices. In 1996 he was also appointed a Provincial Councillor. Later, between 2002 and 2008 he was Rector of the house of Montevideo - Juan XXIII.

25. *VAN HECKE Albert, Provincial of the Province of HUNGARY.*

The Rector Major with his Council has appointed as Provincial of the "Saint Stephan the King" Province of Hungary Fr *Albert Van Hecke*, at the end of his term of office as General Councillor for the North Europe Region. He succeeds Fr József Havasi.

Born on 1 September 1941 at Sleidinge (Oost-Vlaanderen), Belgium, Fr *Albert Van Hecke* made his first profession on 25 August 1962, perpetual profession on 23 March 1969, and was ordained priest at Oud-Heverlee on 12 September 1970.

He was elected General Councillor for the North Europe Region by the GC24 on 2 April 1996 and confirmed in the same office by the GC25 on 8 April 2002.

Some other biographical information may be found in AGC 357 n. 5.3.

5.7 New Salesian Bishops

1. *SCARAMUSSA Tarcisio, Auxiliary Bishop of SÃO PAULO (Brazil)*

On 23 January 2008 the Press Office of the Holy See published

the appointment by Pope Benedict XVI of the Salesian priest *Tarcisio SCARAMUSSA* as *Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of SÃO PAULO (Brazil)*, assigning him the titular see of Segia (Spain).

Tarcisio Scaramussa was born on 19 September 1950 at Prosperidade, in the State of Espírito Santo, in Brazil. As a student in the Salesian College in Jaciguá, his Salesian vocation matured and he went to the novitiate in Jaboatão, where he made his first profession on 31 January 1969. Having completed his philosophical and pedagogical studies and done his practical training he followed courses of theology in Belo Horizonte. On 11 December 1977 he was ordained priest at Prosperidade, his home town. From the academic point of view he obtained the Licence in Theology from the Catholic Pontifical University in Minas Gerais and the Licence in Pedagogy from the Don Bosco Faculty of São João del Rey.

After ordination as a priest he was engaged in teaching and in educative and pastoral animation. Coordinator of the *Institute of Pedagogy and Philosophy*, in 1985 the Superiors entrusted him with the responsibility of being Rector of the house of Jaciguá (now Vargem

Alta). In 1988 he became a member of the Provincial Council and in 1989 he was transferred as Rector to the “Cristo Luz dos Povos” parish in Belo Horizonte. In 1990 he was appointed Vice Provincial and then on 8 December 1996 he was appointed Provincial of Belo Horizonte.

On 6 April 2002 at the 25th General Chapter he was elected General Councillor for Social Communication, a position he held until his appointment as Bishop. Episcopal ordination took place on 19 April 2008 at Vargem Alta, at which Cardinal Odilio Pedro Scherer, Archbishop of São Paulo presided. Among those present were the Rector Major, his Vicar and the Regional Councillor for Latin America - South Cone.

2. MENDES da Silva Joaquim Augusto, Auxiliary Bishop of the Patriarchate of LISBON

On 31 January 2008 the Press Office of the Holy See published the appointment by Pope Benedict XVI of the Salesian priest *Joaquim Augusto da Silva MENDES* as *Auxiliary Bishop of the Patriarchate of LISBONA (Portugal)*, and assigning him the titular see of Caliabria (Portugal).

Born on 14 March 1948 at Castelões de Cepeda, in the diocese of Porto, Joaquim Augusto da Silva Mendes made his first profession as a Salesian on 6 October 1975. Perpetually professed on 15 April 1981, he was ordained priest in Lisbon on 24 July 1983. He obtained the Licence in Theology from the Portuguese Catholic University of Lisbon and then the Licence in Spiritual Theology from the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome in 1984.

He was then engaged in the Salesian educative and pastoral mission in the communities of Mogofores (1984-1988) and Porto-Colégio Dom Bosco (1988-1990). In 1990 he was appointed Rector of the Prenovitiate in Porto. Then in 1993 he returned as Rector to the Colégio Dom Bosco in Porto. In 1996 he became a member of the Provincial Council.

On 24 July 1999 the Rector Major with his Council entrusted him with the guidance of the Portuguese Province as Provincial. At the end of his six-years he was appointed Rector of the community of Manique, the post he still held when he was appointed Bishop.

The episcopal ordination took place on 30 March 2008 in Lisbon, with the Patriarch, Cardinal José da Cruz Policarpo presiding.

3. MONTESDEOCA BECERRA Néstor, Vicar Apostolic of MÉNDEZ (Ecuador)

On 15 April 2008 the Press Office of the Holy See published the appointment by Pope Benedict XVI of the Salesian priest *Néstor MONTESDEOCA BECERRA* as *Bishop in the Vicariate Apostolic of MÉNDEZ (Ecuador)*, with the titular see of Celle di Mauritanica.

Néstor Montesdeoca Becerra was born in El Pan (Azuay, Ecuador) on 29 April 1957 and became a Salesian on 24 January 1977, when he made his first profession in the novitiate at Rionegro. Between 1977 and 1980 he followed the normal course of Philosophy at the Higher Salesian Institute, then attached to the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (now the Salesian Polytechnical University). After practical training he studied Theology in Rome at the Salesian Pontifical University obtaining the Licence. Still at the UPS, he also attended courses of specialisation (in preparation for the Doctorate) in Theology and Sacred Scripture. He made his perpetual profession on 24 May 1982 and was ordained priest on 30 August 1986.

After ordination he carried out the following responsibilities:

1986-1988: Professor and Principal in the Salesian Higher Institute (Quito-El Girón); 1988-1992: Principal in the Cardinal Spellman Salesian College in Quito; 1992-1993: member of the Salesian community of Riobamba; 1993-1995: parish priest of the Mission of Limón (Méndez) and responsible for Youth Ministry in the Salesian Sixth Form College; 1995-2000: Teacher and Vice Rector in the Salesian Post-novitiate (Quito), Lecturer at the Salesian Polytechnical University; 2000-2003: member of the Salesian Community of El Girón (Quito) and responsible for Youth Ministry in the Cardinal Spellman Salesian College; 2003-2006: Rector of the Salesian community of El Girón (Quito); from 2006 until the present: Rector of the Salesian Community of Quito - La Tola, Responsible for the Joint Colleges of Cardinal Spellman and Don Bosco de la Tola, as well as for the *Chicos de la Calle* programme (Quito).

The episcopal ordination took place on 21 June 2008 with Archbishop Giacomo Guido Ottonello presiding.

**4. VILAR Antônio Emidio,
Bishop of the Diocese of
SÃO LUIZ DE CÁCERES
(Brazil)**

On 23 July 2008 the Press Office of the Holy See published the appointment by Pope Benedict XVI, of the Salesian priest *Antônio Emidio VILAR* as *Bishop of the Diocese of SÃO LUIZ DE CÁCERES, in Brazil*.

Born on 14 November 1957 at Guardinha (MG, Brazil), Antônio Emidio Vilar made his first profession as a Salesian on 31 January 1976 in the novitiate at Pindamonhangaba. Perpetually professed on 23 August 1981, he was ordained priest on 9 September 1986, at the end of his course of theology in Rome-UPS.

After having completed his studies, obtaining a Licence in Spiritual Theology at the Salesian Pontifical University, and returned to his Province, for three years (1987-1990) he was engaged in the Lorena. Salesian Philosophical Institute. In 1990 he was appointed Rector of the community of Pindamonhangaba. From here in 1992 he was transferred to the Theologate in São Paulo - Lapa, where he was a lecturer, Vice Rector, and between 1994 and 1998 Rector. In 1999 he moved to the novitiate in São Carlos as Director of Novices and between 2001 and 2007 also as Rector. At São Carlos, in the local church he was Defender of the Bond in the Ecclesiastical Tri-

bunal. From November 2007 until his appointment as Bishop he was Rector and parish priest in the house of São Paulo - Bom Retiro.

His episcopal ordination took place in São Luiz de Cáceres with Cardinal Odilio Pedro Scherer, Archbishop of São Paulo presiding.

5.8 Our dead confreres (5th list 2007 and 1st list 2008)

"Faith in the risen Christ sustains our hope and keeps alive our communion with our brothers who rest in Christ's peace. They have spent their lives in the Congregation, and not a few have suffered even to the point of martyrdom for the love of the Lord... Their remembrance is an incentive to continue faithfully in our mission." (*Const.* 94).

Deceased 2007 - 5th list

NOTE: We print a 5th list of those the news of whose death in 2007 arrived after the publication of ACG n. 400.

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P ARTOLA HUÁRRIZ Gato | Albacete (Spagna) | 26-12-2007 | 71 | SVA |
| P BARALE Adriano | Cuenca (Ecuador) | 12-12-2007 | 85 | ECU |
| P BIGLIATI Francesco | Cumiana (Italia) | 18-12-2007 | 80 | ICP |
| P BOLAÑOS MENÉNDEZ Alvaro | Guatemala (Guatemala) | 06-07-2007 | 71 | CAM |
| P CARANZANO Battista | Vallecrosia (Italia) | 16-12-2007 | 82 | ILT |
| P CUOMO Aldo | Torino | 27-12-2007 | 78 | ICP |
| L HUENCHUPÁN Juan Carlos | Junín de los Andes (Argentina) | 13-12-2007 | 30 | ABB |
| P KADAVUNKAL Mathew | Guwahati (India) | 01-01-2007 | 75 | ING |
| P KUBERA Andrzej | Ostrzeszów (Polonia) | 16-12-2007 | 78 | PLO |
| L LAGER Maurice | Toulon (Francia) | 13-12-2007 | 87 | FRA |
| P LEVORATO Alfonso | Campo Grande (Brasile) | 14-05-2007 | 89 | BCG |
| P MACHÁČ František | Trnava (Slovacchia) | 13-05-2007 | 79 | SLK |
| L MASIERO Ottavio | Beppu (Giappone) | 08-12-2007 | 96 | GIA |
| P MONDINI Santino | Mumbai (India) | 21-12-2007 | 94 | INB |
| P NORIEGA Néstor Alfredo | Rosario (Argentina) | 31-12-2007 | 80 | ARO |
| P PALAZZO Franco | Cochabamba (Bolivia) | 28-12-2007 | 61 | BOL |
| P PAULÍK Jozef | Bečov (Slovacchia) | 28-11-2007 | 88 | SLK |
| P PIERI Giorgio | Perugia (Italia) | 27-12-2007 | 82 | IAD |
| P SERRA GOUVEIA Sebastião | Porto (Portogallo) | 21-07-2007 | 66 | MOZ |
| P VEČERA Josef | Stará Boleslav (Rep. Ceca) | 13-12-2007 | 78 | CEP |
| P WOŹNIAK Mieczysław | Łódź (Polonia) | 13-12-2007 | 63 | PLE |

* * *

Deceased 2008 - 1st list

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P ADAIKALASAMY Mariadurai | Chennai (India) | 02-12-2008 | 83 | INM |
| P ALBRECHT Fermín | Rosario (Argentina) | 24-11-2008 | 86 | ARO |
| P ALMEIDA Dominic | Mumbai (India) | 16-04-2008 | 65 | INB |
| P ALTOÉ Geraldo | Niterói, RJ (Brasile) | 01-05-2008 | 74 | BBH |
| P ALVES Daniel | Porto (Portogallo) | 16-04-2008 | 58 | POR |
| L ANDRIOLO Luigi | Torino | 04-03-2008 | 68 | ICP |

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P ANTON François | Toulon (Francia) | 23-01-2008 | 83 | FRA |
| L ARANDA SANZ Isidoro | Arévalo (Spagna) | 22-05-2008 | 99 | SMA |
| P ARTIZZU Salvatoreangelo | Antananarivo (Madagascar) | 25-11-2008 | 73 | MDG |
| P AVALLONE Paul | Cedar Grove, NY (U.S.A.) | 31-07-2008 | 86 | SUE |
| P BAROSSO Mario | Nice (Francia) | 16-12-2008 | 88 | FRA |
| P BARRUECO CONDE Domingo | Cuenca (Ecuador) | 26-04-2008 | 83 | ECU |
| P BARUFFI Helvélio | Roma | 21-02-2008 | 63 | RMG |
| <i>Fu Ispettore per 6 anni e per 12 anni Consigliere Generale</i> | | | | |
| P BATTISTI Giovanni | Venezia-Mestre (Italia) | 08-04-2008 | 85 | INE |
| P BEAUVE Jean-Paul | Tainan (Taiwan) | 24-02-2008 | 39 | CIN |
| P BECCARIA Mario | Bra (Italia) | 29-08-2008 | 68 | ICP |
| P BELLU Pasquale | Selargius (Italia) | 07-07-2008 | 80 | ISA |
| L BERNARDI Ernesto Egidio | Torino | 23-03-2008 | 84 | ICP |
| P BERSELLI Dario | Arese (Italia) | 05-08-2008 | 91 | ILE |
| P BESNATE Daniele | Arese (Italia) | 23-06-2008 | 100 | ILE |
| P BIASSONI Alfredo | Varazze (Italia) | 23-03-2008 | 89 | ILT |
| L BISSON Pasquale | Guayaquil (Ecuador) | 06-04-2008 | 82 | ECU |
| L BOCIO MARTÍNEZ José María | Mérida (Spagna) | 10-11-2008 | 87 | SSE |
| P BOEMAARS Jos | Nijmegen (Olanda) | 27-09-2008 | 75 | OLA |
| P BOGO Eduardo | Bagé, RS (Brasile) | 18-05-2008 | 64 | BPA |
| P BONALUMI Ambrogio | Bologna (Italia) | 22-11-2008 | 79 | ILE |
| P BORGES Albino Antonio | Essen (Germania) | 29-03-2008 | 90 | GER |
| P BORZAGA Piergiorgio | Fernando de la Mora (Paraguay) | 10-12-2008 | 73 | PAR |
| P BRAMBILLA Antonio | Garbagnate Milanese (Italia) | 25-11-2008 | 82 | ILE |
| P BRAMBILLA Juan Ángel | Concepción del Uruguay (Argentina) | 26-11-2008 | 79 | ARO |
| P BRESCHI Severo | Livorno (Italia) | 01-07-2008 | 85 | ILT |
| P BRITO Henrique Ribeiro de | Araxá, MG (Brasile) | 24-06-2008 | 85 | BBH |
| L BRUNO Aldo | Udine (Italia) | 27-09-2008 | 73 | INE |
| P BRUNO Corrado | Torino | 09-05-2008 | 90 | ICP |
| P BUBULA Ignacy | Wroclaw (Polonia) | 19-10-2008 | 77 | PLO |
| P BUENO FERREIRA Napoleón | Montevideo (Uruguay) | 16-09-2008 | 94 | URU |
| P BURLINA Mario | Vasto (Italia) | 31-01-2008 | 82 | IAD |
| L BUSSOLINO Celestino | Torino | 28-01-2008 | 86 | ICP |
| P CALOVI Ettore | Lisboa (Portogallo) | 19-09-2008 | 89 | POR |
| P CALVO DÍEZ José María | Valladolid (Spagna) | 15-06-2008 | 68 | SLE |
| P CANTONE Carlo | Torino | 13-12-2008 | 86 | ICP |
| P CAPELLO Angelo | Foggizzo (Italia) | 19-06-2008 | 82 | ICP |
| P CARNOTO Jesús | Junín de los Andes (Argentina) | 04-09-2008 | 93 | ABB |
| P CARRILLO LATERRADE Nelson B. | San Francisco de Macoris (R.D.) | 10-07-2008 | 89 | ANT |
| L CAULFIELD Thomas | Bolton (Gran Bretagna) | 06-05-2008 | 89 | GBR |
| P CENCIA Alberto | Roma | 03-05-2008 | 77 | IRO |
| P CHIARI Romeo | Varazze (Italia) | 18-09-2008 | 83 | ILT |
| P CHISTÈ Emilio | Treviso (Italia) | 20-03-2008 | 83 | INE |
| P CHUECA MÁRQUEZ Ubaldo | San Francisco (U.S.A.) | 21-10-2008 | 70 | SUO |
| P CID CONDE José | Sevilla (Spagna) | 16-01-2008 | 71 | SSE |
| P CORCORAN John | Farnborough (Gran Bretagna) | 03-02-2008 | 94 | GBR |
| P CORSINI Enrico | Sesto San Giovanni (Italia) | 29-06-2008 | 77 | ILE |
| P CORSO Antonio | São José dos Campos (Brasile) | 05-02-2008 | 85 | BSP |
| P COSATO Giuseppe | Salerno (Italia) | 08-03-2008 | 85 | IME |

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P COSSU Salvatore | Sassari (Italia) | 21-01-2008 | 69 | ISA |
| P CUOMO Tommaso | Torre Annunziata (Italia) | 07-09-2008 | 87 | IME |
| P DALLE PEZZE Gino | Cesenatico (Italia) | 04-07-2008 | 66 | ILE |
| P DARMONT Armand | Asse (Belgio) | 04-12-2008 | 89 | BEN |
| P DE BERNARDI Secondo | Torino | 14-08-2008 | 95 | ICP |
| P DE DECKER Jozef | Gent (Belgio) | 21-05-2008 | 99 | BEN |
| P DE FRANCESCHI Orazio | Venezia (Italia) | 10-07-2008 | 75 | MOR |
| E DELGADO ÁVILA Miguel | Caracas (Venezuela) | 18-11-2008 | 79 | - |
| <i>Fu Vescovo per 29 anni: per 12 anni Vescovo Ausiliare di Caracas, per 6 anni Vescovo Ordinario di Barcellona (Venezuela) e per 11 anni Vescovo emerito</i> | | | | |
| P DELLAVALLE Riccardo | Saltertrand (Torino) | 05-08-2008 | 84 | ICP |
| P DESTRO Cesare | Bergamo (Italia) | 16-02-2008 | 85 | INE |
| P DEULIN Octave | Templeuve (Hainaut-Belgio) | 08-11-2008 | 92 | FRB |
| L DEZZANA Fiorentino | Torino | 08-01-2008 | 88 | ICP |
| P DEZZUTI Luigi | Torino | 18-03-2008 | 84 | ICP |
| P Díez Mateo Ignacio | León (Spagna) | 20-02-2008 | 95 | SLE |
| L Díez RODRÍGUEZ Agustín | Ávila (Spagna) | 15-03-2008 | 79 | SMA |
| L DOMÍNGUEZ Díez Santiago | León (Spagna) | 13-12-2008 | 72 | SLE |
| P DORIGUZZI Luigi | Venezia-Mestre (Italia) | 14-10-2008 | 86 | INE |
| P DOROZENSKI Francisco | Posadas (Argentina) | 26-05-2008 | 85 | ARO |
| P D'SOUZA Thomas | Melbourne (Australia) | 28-07-2008 | 85 | AUL |
| P DUMRAUF Román | Fortín Mercedes (Argentina) | 11-12-2008 | 81 | ABB |
| P DURANTI Giacomo | Roma | 22-11-2008 | 83 | ICC |
| P EDWIN Jude | Warangal (A.P. - India) | 30-08-2008 | 37 | INM |
| L ESCALERA ROMERO José | Coacalco (Massico) | 15-04-2008 | 93 | MEM |
| L ESPINOZA VALDERRAMA Julio | Lima (Perù) | 26-10-2008 | 86 | PER |
| P ESPIRITU Edgardo | Cebu City (Filippine) | 24-10-2008 | 67 | FIS |
| P FACCHINELLI Rinaldo | Seoul (Korea) | 01-04-2008 | 87 | KOR |
| L FALCÃO Manoel Marinho | Recife (Brasile) | 13-04-2008 | 82 | BRE |
| P FANZE Léopold | Madrid (Spagna) | 11-01-2008 | 37 | ATE |
| L FERNANDEZ Gabriel | Karunapuram, Warangal (India) | 22-07-2008 | 75 | INH |
| P FERNÁNDEZ MIGUEZ Perfecto | León (Spagna) | 26-01-2008 | 72 | SLE |
| P FERREIRA Custódio | Amadora, Lisboa (Portogallo) | 01-05-2008 | 80 | POR |
| P FLEMING Patrick | Manzini (Swaziland) | 08-12-2008 | 84 | AFM |
| P FLORIT ROTGER Antonio | Barcelona (Spagna) | 08-02-2008 | 80 | SBA |
| P FOLGER Josef | Bad Mühlacken (Austria) | 15-02-2008 | 91 | AUS |
| P FOSCHIATTI Pedro Antonio | Formosa (Argentina) | 18-09-2008 | 63 | ARO |
| P GAICH Thomas | Wien (Austria) | 13-12-2008 | 67 | AUS |
| P GAMBA Antonio | Varazze (Italia) | 15-08-2008 | 84 | ILT |
| P GANASSIN Martino | Venezia-Mestre (Italia) | 23-10-2008 | 67 | INE |
| P GARMAN Anthony | Cape Town (Sud Africa) | 31-08-2008 | 95 | AFM |
| P GEUKENS Jozef | Zelzate (Belgio) | 14-04-2008 | 79 | BEN |
| P GONÇALVES DA SILVA José | Pindamonhangaba (Brasile) | 15-11-2008 | 81 | BSP |
| L GONZÁLEZ Álvaro | Bogotá (Colombia) | 17-08-2008 | 89 | COB |
| P GONZÁLEZ GONZÁLEZ Jorge | Santo Domingo (R.D.) | 28-08-2008 | 58 | ANT |
| P GOZZO Santo | Pedara (Italia) | 03-04-2008 | 86 | ISI |
| P HARTMANN Robert | Mulhouse (Francia) | 09-02-2008 | 80 | FRA |
| P IBÁÑEZ Díez José María | Ávila (Spagna) | 26-09-2008 | 75 | SMA |
| P INVERNIZZI Giovanni | Cuiabá, MT (Brasile) | 02-06-2008 | 80 | BCG |

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P IRURETA SARALEGUI Félix Fco. | Montevideo (Uruguay) | 20-05-2008 | 71 | URU |
| P JACENCIUK Henryk <i>Fu Ispettore per sei anni</i> | Piła (Polonia) | 08-08-2008 | 84 | PLN |
| L JACQUINET Pierre | Caen (Francia) | 08-10-2008 | 77 | FRB |
| P JEŘÁBEK Jan | Ostrava (Rep. Ceca) | 01-01-2008 | 90 | CEP |
| P JEZIEŃSKI Antoni | Piła (Polonia) | 17-10-2008 | 95 | PLN |
| P JUROŠKA Cyril | Frišták (Rep. Ceca) | 04-10-2008 | 87 | CEP |
| P KACZMAREK Herbert | Bonn (Germania) | 07-12-2008 | 81 | GER |
| L KIJANKA Jan | Kraków (Polonia) | 20-09-2008 | 99 | PLS |
| P KILUFYA Oscar | Johannesburg (Sud Africa) | 29-03-2008 | 49 | AFC |
| P KITA August | Sufferin, NY (USA) | 12-06-2008 | 76 | SUE |
| P KORAL Edward | Wrocław (Polonia) | 13-05-2008 | 88 | PLO |
| L KRUCZKOWSKI Mieczysław | Gdańsk (Polonia) | 27-05-2008 | 78 | PLN |
| L KURTZ Reinhold | Chemnitz (Germania) | 03-02-2008 | 72 | GER |
| P LA BELLA Sebastiano | Palermo (Italia) | 07-08-2008 | 90 | ISI |
| P LAARHUIS Herman | Nongthymmai (India) | 06-06-2008 | 94 | ING |
| P LAIGO François | Coat An Doc'h (Francia) | 03-08-2008 | 78 | FRA |
| P LANNOO Luc | Tielt (Belgio) | 01-02-2008 | 75 | BEN |
| P LANZA Cesare Francesco | Valencia (Venezuela) | 12-11-2008 | 68 | SVA |
| L LARA DÍEZ Teodomiro | Arévalo (Spagna) | 29-10-2008 | 68 | SMA |
| P LAVIANO Luigi | Bari (Italia) | 01-10-2008 | 90 | IME |
| P LEAHY Timothy | Pallaskenry (Irlanda) | 24-04-2008 | 79 | IRL |
| L LONČARIĆ Stanko | Rijeka (Croazia) | 10-08-2008 | 82 | CRO |
| L LOPES Fernando | Lisboa (Portogallo) | 25-10-2008 | 83 | POR |
| P LUCA Carmelo | Pedara (Italia) | 26-05-2008 | 84 | ISI |
| P LYNGKHOI Justin | Shillong (India) | 29-07-2008 | 59 | ING |
| P LYONS Daniel | Limerick (Irlanda) | 25-04-2008 | 94 | IRL |
| P MALO Pascual | Barcelona (Spagna) | 13-07-2008 | 83 | SBA |
| P MANJIL Ittyachen | Chennai (India) | 28-05-2008 | 86 | INM |
| P MARINI Daniele | Castello di Gogego (Italia) | 14-11-2008 | 89 | INE |
| P MARIO Pietro | Guadalajara (Messico) | 18-11-2008 | 92 | MEG |
| P MARIOTTI Luigi | Guatemala (Guatemala) | 24-03-2008 | 66 | CAM |
| P MASSAFRA Vito | Salerno (Italia) | 29-08-2008 | 94 | IME |
| L MATTAI Antonio | Alassio (Italia) | 24-03-2008 | 87 | ILT |
| P McBRIDE Patrick | Limerick (Irlanda) | 22-08-2008 | 80 | IRL |
| L McELWEE Cornelius | Farnborough (Gran Bretagna) | 07-10-2008 | 89 | GBR |
| P MEDDE Giovanni Maria | Selargius (Italia) | 19-11-2008 | 61 | ICC |
| L MELO Jarbas | Manaus (Brasile) | 09-07-2008 | 81 | BMA |
| P MENNA Francesco | Civitanova Marche (Italia) | 16-01-2008 | 92 | IAD |
| P MÉSIDOR Jacques <i>Fu primo Superiore della Visitatoria di Haiti, per sei anni</i> | Cap Haïtien (Haïti) | 15-09-2008 | 80 | HAI |
| P MONTERO RIVERA Federico | Sevilla (Spagna) | 09-12-2008 | 82 | SSE |
| P MONTIBALLER Carlo | Stoner (Italia) | 07-03-2008 | 90 | INE |
| P MORELLI Antonio | Roma | 15-03-2008 | 88 | IRO |
| P MOYALAN Johnson | Sirsi (Nepal) | 01-07-2008 | 59 | INC |
| P NÁDASKÝ Augustín | Šaštín (Slovacchia) | 06-08-2008 | 77 | SLK |
| P NAPAL José Ignacio | Ermua (Bizkaia, Spagna) | 27-08-2008 | 41 | SBI |
| L NAVARRO PARRA Eligios | Sevilla (Spagna) | 27-06-2008 | 92 | SSE |
| L NICCOLINI Ivo | Alexandria (Egitto) | 16-02-2008 | 80 | MOR |

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| P NIETO RODRÍGUEZ Heliodoro | Madrid (Spagna) | 10-12-2008 | 59 | SMA |
| P NOGLER Giovanni | Castello di Godego (Italia) | 26-06-2008 | 87 | INE |
| P OLIVEIRA Ralfy | Campos (Brasile) | 04-03-2008 | 90 | BBH |
| L OMODEI Renzo | Parma (Italia) | 10-01-2008 | 94 | ILE |
| P OTTOGALLI Pietro | Tucumán (Argentina) | 14-03-2008 | 79 | ACO |
| P PACI Giuseppe | Arese (Italia) | 14-01-2008 | 77 | ILE |
| P PALMANS Piet | Groot-Bijgaarden (Belgio) | 11-03-2008 | 65 | BEN |
| <i>Fu Ispettore per 9 anni</i> | | | | |
| P PASQUATO Ottorino | Roma | 21-01-2008 | 76 | UPS |
| P PELLERINO Prosdocimo | Lombriasco (Italia) | 09-04-2008 | 93 | ICP |
| P PEPELS Piet | Kinrooi (Belgio) | 31-03-2008 | 70 | BEN |
| P PÉREZ RODRÍGUEZ Hilario | Córdoba (Spagna) | 27-11-2008 | 80 | SSE |
| P PERINI Vítório | Piracicaba (Brasile) | 12-09-2008 | 77 | BSP |
| P PEROTTI Giovenale | Santiago de Chile | 15-01-2008 | 87 | CIL |
| P PERTUSATI Lodovico | Torino | 30-06-2008 | 91 | ICP |
| P PETER Henri | Toulon (Francia) | 03-03-2008 | 85 | FRA |
| P PETTENUZZO Luigi | Pordenone (Italia) | 18-03-2008 | 65 | INE |
| P PEZZETTA Edi | Salerno (Italia) | 24-07-2008 | 85 | IME |
| P PHAM TRI THUC Giuseppe | Duc Huy (Vietnam) | 07-12-2008 | 43 | VIE |
| P PICCHIONI Alfredo | Jbeil (Libano) | 24-02-2008 | 86 | MOR |
| <i>Fu Ispettore per 12 anni</i> | | | | |
| P PIETRZYK Kazimierz | Rózanystok (Polonia) | 26-04-2008 | 95 | PLE |
| P PIROLA Carlo | Torino | 20-05-2008 | 84 | ICP |
| P POLLICE Emilio | Salerno (Italia) | 14-10-2008 | 103 | IME |
| P POMATTO Vincenzo | Torino | 05-06-2008 | 87 | ICP |
| P PORTIOLI Aurelio | Arese (Italia) | 28-10-2008 | 88 | ILE |
| P PRIEM Valère | Bray-Dunes (Francia) | 14-08-2008 | 71 | BES |
| P PUTHENVEETIL Jacob | Nairobi (Kenya) | 02-05-2008 | 76 | AFE |
| P RANIERI Francesco | Salerno (Italia) | 30-05-2008 | 87 | IME |
| P RENCKENS Michel | Genk (Belgio) | 21-07-2008 | 84 | BEN |
| P RIBECHINI Giorgio | Varazze (Italia) | 09-01-2008 | 89 | ILT |
| P RIGOLON Michele | Cremisan (Israele) | 27-02-2008 | 77 | MOR |
| L RIJVEN Jan | Nijmegen (Olanda) | 29-04-2008 | 91 | BEN |
| L ROBUSTELLI Michele | Arese (Italia) | 09-09-2008 | 96 | ILE |
| P RODRÍGUEZ CASACÓ Héctor | Bayamo (Cuba) | 22-11-2008 | 41 | ANT |
| L RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA Melchor | Madrid (Spagna) | 06-12-2008 | 60 | SMA |
| P RÖHDE August | Calhorn (Germania) | 22-02-2008 | 79 | GER |
| P RONCARATI Arturo | Arese (Italia) | 28-06-2008 | 82 | ILE |
| P ROSSO Ottavio | Pinerolo (Italia) | 27-08-2008 | 92 | ICP |
| P ROVIRA Miguel | Porto Alegre (Brasile) | 08-08-2008 | 97 | BPA |
| P RYNKUN Leonard | Olsztyn (Polonia) | 26-07-2008 | 84 | PLE |
| P SABO Vendelín | Holíè (Slovacchia) | 12-11-2008 | 89 | SLK |
| P SACCO Franco | Lecce (Italia) | 29-10-2008 | 50 | IME |
| P SALAMONOWICZ Stanisław | Aleksandrów Kujawski (Polonia) | 14-08-2008 | 81 | PLN |
| P SÁNCHEZ Ángel Adolfo | Campo Grande (Brasile) | 01-03-2008 | 74 | BCG |
| P SANDOVAL MONTESDEOCA Eduardo | Quito (Ecuador) | 09-11-2008 | 67 | ECU |
| P SANGIORGI Vincenzo | Riesi (Italia) | 07-02-2008 | 88 | ISI |
| P SANVITO Giuseppe | Torino | 27-10-2008 | 90 | ICP |

| SURNAME AND NAME | PLACE of death | DATE | AGE | PROV |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|-----|------|
| E SARTO Antonio <i>Fu Vescovo per 37 anni, dei quali 11 come Vescovo Ausiliare-Coadiutore di Porto Velho e 19 Vescovo di Barra do Garças</i> | Campinas (Brasile) | 29-09-2008 | 82 | - |
| P SCALVINI Giuliano | Bologna (Italia) | 30-03-2008 | 81 | ILE |
| P SCHMIDT Zoltán | Nitra (Slovacchia) | 14-07-2008 | 80 | SLK |
| L SCHNUR Adam | Memmingen (Germania) | 19-05-2008 | 85 | GER |
| P SCRIVO Gaetano <i>Fu Ispettore per 3 anni, Consigliere Generale per la Pastorale Giovanile per 6 anni e per 18 anni Vicario del Rettor Maggiore</i> | Civitanova Marche (Italia) | 25-08-2008 | 87 | IAD |
| P SEMIK Stanisław <i>Fu Ispettore per sei anni</i> | Kraków (Polonia) | 01-10-2008 | 64 | PLS |
| P SEPÚLVEDA Luis Guillermo | Cúcuta (Colombia) | 11-10-2008 | 66 | COB |
| L SETTI Alfonso | Salerno (Italia) | 13-07-2008 | 93 | IME |
| P SINIGAGLIA Mario | Brescia (Italia) | 22-04-2008 | 87 | ILE |
| E ŚMIGIELSKI Adam <i>Fu per 6 anni Ispettore e per 16 anni Vescovo di Sosnowiec</i> | Sosnowiec (Polonia) | 07-10-2008 | 74 | - |
| P SMITH Alexander | Hong Kong (Cina) | 08-12-2008 | 93 | CIN |
| P SMYK Kazimierz | Łódź (Polonia) | 04-04-2008 | 53 | PLE |
| P SOARES Bernardo | Lisboa (Portogallo) | 02-09-2008 | 72 | POR |
| P SPITZ Michael | Ensdorf (Germania) | 14-04-2008 | 70 | GER |
| L ŠPOK Rudolf | Frýdek (Rep. Ceca) | 01-05-2008 | 83 | CEP |
| P SZCZYPŃSKI Grzegorz | Częstochowa (Polonia) | 30-10-2008 | 43 | PLO |
| P TIMONEDA PERARNAU Josep M. | Bamako (Mali) | 29-03-2008 | 44 | AFO |
| L TIOZZO Leone | Venezia-Mestre (Italia) | 01-10-2008 | 82 | INE |
| L TODEL Charles | St. Petersburg, FL (USA) | 26-04-2008 | 85 | SUE |
| P TORRESE Mariano | Brindisi (Italia) | 30-03-2008 | 75 | IME |
| P TRINDADE Rubens | Brasília (Brasile) | 22-06-2008 | 81 | BBH |
| P TURGIS Bernard | Bailleul (Francia) | 29-01-2008 | 77 | FRA |
| P UGARTE JOHNSTON Pablo V. | Valparaíso (Cile) | 19-07-2008 | 46 | CIL |
| P UGHI Alfredo | Gorizia (Italia) | 10-02-2008 | 98 | INE |
| P VANWIJNSBERGHE Roger | Leuven (Belgio) | 04-02-2008 | 83 | BEN |
| P VARAGONA Silvestro | Messina (Italia) | 19-01-2008 | 86 | ISI |
| L VARGAS Virgilio | San José (Costa Rica) | 22-04-2008 | 90 | CAM |
| P VELLA Blagio | Pedara (Italia) | 10-04-2008 | 86 | ISI |
| P VERTEMATI Francesco | Arese (Italia) | 10-11-2008 | 83 | ILE |
| L VILLASANTA Bernard | Cebu City (Filippine) | 02-04-2008 | 48 | FIS |
| P VOLEL Arthur | Fleurbaey-Tabarre (Haiti) | 26-01-2008 | 84 | HAI |
| L WAGNER Georg | Eisenstadt (Austria) | 10-04-2008 | 102 | AUS |
| L WEISS Lodovico | Castello di Godego (Italia) | 22-04-2008 | 96 | INE |
| P WURZEL Jan | Wrocław (Polonia) | 30-06-2008 | 88 | PLO |
| L ZAHN Johannes | München (Germania) | 11-03-2008 | 81 | GER |
| P ZALAR Jacob | Ljubljana (Slovenia) | 11-04-2008 | 99 | SLO |
| P ZANIBONI Reynaldo | Araras (Brasile) | 08-01-2008 | 75 | BSP |
| P ZENTNER Philip | Campo Grande (Brasile) | 08-06-2008 | 83 | BCG |
| L ZONTA Antonio | Roma | 10-10-2008 | 84 | ICC |
| L ZUBIZARRETA Ignacio | Barcelona (Spagna) | 01-07-2008 | 79 | SBA |

