



acts

of the general council

year XCIV

january-april 2013

N. 415

official organ
of animation
and communication
for the
salesian congregation

Direzione Generale
Opere don Bosco
Roma



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of the Salesian Society
of St John Bosco

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1. LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR	1.1 Fr Pascual CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA «LIKE DON BOSCO THE EDUCATOR, WE OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE THE GOSPEL OF JOY THROUGH A PEDAGOGY OF KINDNESS» Second year of preparation for the Bicentenary of his birth	3
2. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES	(none in this issue)	
3. RULINGS AND DIRECTIVES	(none in this issue)	
4. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL	4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major 4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors	30 39
5. DOCUMENTS	5.1 The Message of the Rector Major for the Beatification of Sr Maria Troncatti, FMA 5.2 Message from the Rector Major on the 75 th Anniversary of the Faculty of Theology in Turin-Crocetta, with a special memento of the Venerable Fr Giuseppe Quadrio 5.3 New Salesian Bishop 5.4 Our deceased confreres	60 62 67 68

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**«LIKE DON BOSCO THE EDUCATOR,
WE OFFER YOUNG PEOPLE THE GOSPEL OF JOY
THROUGH A PEDAGOGY OF KINDNESS»**

Second year of preparation for the Bicentenary of his birth

Strenna 2013

PREMISE: The Synod on “new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith”; reflections of the Rector Major who took part in this important event of the Church. – **COMMENTARY ON THE STRENNA 2013. REDISCOVERING THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM.** 1. **Relaunching the “upright citizen” and the “good Christian”.** – 2. **Returning to the young better prepared.** – 3. **An education of the heart.** – **PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY.** 1. *The ‘gospel of joy’.* - 2. *The pedagogy of kindness.* - 3. *Education is a matter of the heart.* - 4. *The formation of the upright citizen and of the good Christian.* - 5. *Salesian humanism.* - 6. *Preventive System and Human Rights.* - 7. *To be read.* – **CONCLUSION.** – **WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN’T LOOKING.**

25 December 2012

The Solemnity of the Birth of the Lord

My Dear Confreres,

I am writing to you on the solemnity of the Birth of the Lord when with the whole Church we celebrate the great joy that was proclaimed: *“Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”* (Lk 2,11-12). While I offer you my best wishes that you may experience a deep realisation of God in Mary’s infant child, I invite you to make your journey, like the shepherds and the magi to Bethlehem to see: *“this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us”* (Lk 2,15).

This is the best way to live this special time of grace which is the Year of Faith, since, as Benedict XVI says – at its start it is the “encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new

horizon and a decisive direction”.¹ “In our days too faith is a gift to rediscover, to cultivate and to bear witness to, because the Lord grants each one of us to live the beauty and joy of being Christians”.²

Dear confreres there is no doubt that in these days what is needed is a more convinced commitment on the part of the Church and of the Congregation to the “new evangelisation” in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith.³ In fact, faith grows when it is lived as love that has been received and when it is passed on as an experience of grace and of joy.

It is this that I am trying to live, greatly encouraged by having taken part in the recent Synod of Bishops on the new evangelisation for the handing on of the faith, during which the Holy Father launched the Year of Faith coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

In the chronicle of the Rector Major you will find information about my activities during the last few months between July and November. As you will be able to read, with the exception of the journey to Japan on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of that Province, basically I have been at home continuing with treatment for my health. This thank God has improved with the help of the skill, the sense of responsibility and affection of the doctors, and greatly supported by your prayers and those of the whole Salesian Family, for which I feel the duty to express my profound thanks, assuring you that my life consecrated to God is offered to you and for you without reserve for as long as He decides.

The most significant event in which I have taken part has certainly been the Synod between 8 and 20 October. Perhaps you have been able to follow its progress from the celebration of its opening to its conclusion with two very important intervening

¹ BENEDICT XVI Encyclical Letter “*Deus caritas est*”, 25 December 2005, no. 1.

² BENEDICT XVI, *Homily for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*, 10 January 2010.

³ Cf. BENEDICT XVI, Apostolic Letter “*Porta fidei*”, 11 October 2011, no. 7.

events: the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council with the launching of the Year of Faith, and the canonization on Sunday 21 October 2012 of seven new Saints (Jacques Berthieu, Pedro Calungsod, Giovanni Battista Piamarta, María Carmelo Sallés y Barangueras, Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha, Anna Schaeffer).

The theme of the Synod was intended to respond through the emphasising of the urgent need for a new evangelisation to the profound changes in society, to the loss of the freshness of the faith in believers, to inconsistencies in Christian life, to the loss of trust in the Church, and to the increasing impact of secularism.

I have to say that reflection on the new evangelisation is not something new. Even though the expression itself was coined by John Paul II we can find references to it and its foundation in messages of Pius XII, in the address of John XXIII at the opening of the Second Vatican Council, in the main documents of the Council and in the teaching of Paul VI on evangelisation and more recently in the speeches of John Paul I and Benedict XVI.

In the introduction to the *Instrumentum Laboris* the main aim was indicated: “Hopefully, the upcoming synodal assembly will be an event to energize Christian communities and, at the same time, provide concrete answers to the many questions facing the Church today and the resources available in her evangelizing activity [...] The celebration of the Synod is expected to enliven and energize the Church in undertaking a new evangelization, which will lead to a rediscovery of the joy of believing and a rekindling of enthusiasm in communicating the faith. The question is not simply devising something new or undertaking unprecedented initiatives in spreading the Gospel, but living the faith in the spirit of it being a divine proclamation”.⁴

Even though no definition of ‘new evangelisation’ was given, some features can describe it well as the action of the Church

⁴ *Instrumentum laboris*, nn. 5,9.

inspired by the Holy Spirit which recognises the urgency of the missionary mandate received from Jesus and so commits herself to put it into practice interpreting today's signs of the times, in order to find new ways of carrying out God's plan for mankind and for history.

In the speeches of the Synod Fathers many signs of the new evangelisation came through.

As in all Synods, the best experience was that of the catholicity of the Church in the diversity of continents, circumstances, cultures, sensitivities, challenges, current practices and the opportunities for carrying out the mission of evangelisation. Then the whole event was taking place around the paternal, intelligent, calm, open and reassuring person of the Holy Father, in an atmosphere of prayer, respectful listening, enriching dialogue, lived in a spirit of fraternity, communion and collegiality.

In dealing with the theme, which had two parts – “the new evangelisation” for the “transmission of the faith” there was perhaps less reflection on the second part. Certainly during the Synod great emphasis was given to the importance of a kerygmatic style of Christian initiation, which leads to a sincere conversion and to a deep desire to meet the Lord and to follow Him. All this requires, in addition to *personal conversion* which makes the life witness the first and most convincing and attractive proclamation of the Gospel, a *pastoral conversion*. That means an open heart, an attitude of great sympathy and a joyful acceptance of the world in order to listen to what it is saying and to draw close to it so as to make the Kingdom of God grow. In order to imbibe this spirit I invite you to read the *Final Message to the People of God* which opens with the image of the empty jar waiting to be filled with the pure water that gives life. It is an image which recalls the thirst and yearning for God hidden in the hearts of contemporary men and women, but also the evangelising mission of the Church and its task of reaching out to people as in fact Christ did in the passage in the Gospel where he met the Samaritan

woman at the well. In the constantly evolving relationship between the Church and the World, the Synod Fathers asked for a return to a “humble” Church, which does not mean retreating to the sacristy but an awareness that it is the Cross of Christ that the Church brings to the world and through it salvation.

It is clear that in all this project of the new evangelisation for the transmission of faith nowadays Consecrated Life is being called to renew itself, letting itself be evangelised and to be pastorally converted, in order to be a joyful and convinced, a credible and effective bearer of the Good News.

Consecrated Life and within it our Congregation has always been distinguished for its commitment to first evangelisation; in the “*missio ad gentes*” of the Church its role has been and continues to be decisive. It has also shown the same commitment and continues to do so to ordinary evangelisation fostering the acceptance of the Gospel and the building of the Christian community contributing to the renewal of pastoral work dedicating itself to its varied specialised fields of activity such as education, health, social assistance, the media, charitable work on behalf of the poor and the marginalised, cultural, ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue.

Consecrated Life which came into being in order to reflect the way of life of Jesus and to bear witness to the beauty of the Gospel lived in a radical manner, is also being called to devote itself to the new evangelisation, in other words to propose once again the Gospel to those to whom it was already proclaimed and who are now living distanced from and indifferent to the faith.

I am convinced that its fundamental contribution in this area is the joyful witness of a life transformed by the Gospel. Without a witness that is radical, happy, courageous it is not possible to make the Gospel attractive. Only a testimony that is passionate, beautiful and prophetic can be credible, visible and fruitful. Consecrated Life is of service to the Gospel primarily when it sets out to follow the Lord Jesus. Its witness helps to create a need for spirituality, the issue of God, questions about the meaning of life.

It demonstrates the prophetic witness value of fraternal life. It shows the compassion of God which is love in dedication to the poor. This is what the young are looking for in us.

This personal presentation of the Synod of mine can serve as an introduction to the **commentary on the Strenna for 2013** which I am now offering you.

* * *

*«Rejoice in the Lord always;
again, I say, rejoice»
(Phil 4,4)*

The second year of this three year period of preparation for the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco will focus on his pedagogy. In 2012 we concentrated on his life history and we have tried to understand better how the whole of his life was marked by his special love for the young. To this end he devoted all his efforts, precisely because he saw that this was the mission God entrusted to him.

In 2013 our aim will be to study more deeply his approach to education: what Don Bosco wanted to offer to the young and the method he used to open the doors of their hearts, in order to win their confidence and so to form strong personalities from the human and Christian points of view. In practical terms we want to *draw close to Don Bosco the educator*. It is therefore a question of studying more deeply and of updating the Preventive System. This then is the theme of the Strenna for 2013.

Once again this time our approach will not be only an intellectual one. On the one hand a deeper study of Salesian Pedagogy is certainly necessary in order to update it according to the sensitivities and the demands of our own times. Nowadays the social, economic, cultural, political and religious contexts in which we are trying to live our vocation and carry out the Salesian mission have profoundly changed. On the other hand in order to be faith-

ful to the charism of our Father it is equally necessary to make our own the contents and the method of the education and pastoral care he offered. In the context of society nowadays we are called to be holy educators as he was, giving our lives as he did, working with and for the young.

REDISCOVERING THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM

Thinking about Don Bosco's experience as an educator, we are called to bring it to life again faithfully in our day. We are all certainly convinced that in some of its particular expressions and interpretations, his Preventive System appears to be decidedly "dated", in so far as it is linked to a world that no longer exists. In fact there have been a succession of many "revolutions" in the pedagogical, psychological, religious, political, cultural, philosophical, technological and demographical fields in the course of the XXth century. The world has now indeed become a "global village". It is full of constant innovations in the media field on a world-wide scale which have an influence on all the cultures on the planet. Peoples' way of thinking appears to be marked by novel cultural criteria of productivity, efficiency, self-interest, scientific rationality. Therefore in this way of looking at social phenomena many old categories for interpreting them would appear nowadays to be outdated.

In order to put the Preventive System into practice in the right way, rather than immediately thinking about programmes and formulas, or repeating "slogans" well-tried and tested and suited to all occasions, today our efforts must be employed in understanding Don Bosco's method from an historical perspective, aware that the particular circumstances of the time had given rise to the original basic idea, to the theological, anthropological, pastoral and pedagogical theories which he thought suitable for the boys of his day. This historical understanding will help us not to consider his experience in isolation, and to express it with its basic principles in

new ways. In practical terms it is a question of analysing what was different about his way of dealing with the young, with the ordinary people, with the Church, with society, with religious life. Also what was different about his way of educating the boys in the first festive Oratory, his approach to the junior seminary at Valdocco, to the clerics both Salesians and non-Salesians, and to the missionaries. That is not to ignore the fact that already at the first Oratory in the Pinardi shed there were to be found some important insights which later would be more fully developed in the full significance of their humanistic-Christian implications:

- a) flexible structure (this is the way Don Bosco thought of the Oratory) as a bridge between the Church, urban society and various age groups of the sons of the people;
- b) respect for and appreciation of the world of the working class;
- c) religion as the foundation of education according to Catholic pedagogical teaching passed on to him in the context of the *Convitto*;
- d) the vital connection between religious formation and human development, between catechisis and education. In other words, the convergence of education and education to the faith (the integration of faith and life);
- e) the conviction that teaching is an essential means for the enlightening of the mind;
- f) education, likewise catechesis, which is presented in all the ways possible given the limitations of time and resources: literacy projects for those who have never been able to enjoy any kind of schooling, work placement, social-assistance provision throughout the week, the provision of activities for groups of mutual assistance etc.
- g) the full use and appreciation of the value of free time;
- h) kindness as a feature of education and, more in general, as a feature of Christian living.

On the basis of his own personal practical experience, this method once it was called the “**Preventive System**”, became a “system” that was widely publicised and presented as a universal method. Don Bosco proposed it and wanted it to be adopted for the education and the re-education of young people belonging to the most varied groups.

As is well-known and as we find written in the *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family*, the Preventive System: “represents the synthesis of Don Bosco’s pedagogical wisdom and constitutes a prophetic message which he left to his heirs and to the whole Church. It is a spiritual and educational experience which is based on reason, religion and loving kindness.

Reason underlines the values of Christian humanism, such as the search for meaning, work, study, friendship, cheerfulness, piety, freedom not detached from responsibility, the harmony between human sound judgement and Christian wisdom.

Religion means making space for the Grace with saves, cultivating a desire for God, fostering the meeting with Christ the Lord as this gives a full meaning to life, and is a response to the thirst for happiness, progressively taking one’s place in the life and mission of the Church.

Loving kindness expresses the fact that in order to create an effective educational relationship it is necessary that the young are not only loved but know that they are loved; it is a special kind of relationship and an affection that awakens in the hearts of the young all their potential and makes it mature even into total self-donation.

Reason, religion and loving kindness are today more than ever indispensable elements in the work of education, and valuable stimuli, in response to the expectations of the new generations, in giving life to a society which is more human”.⁵

⁵ Art. 21 – *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family* – Rome 2012.

Once what has been passed on to us from the past has been properly understood, it is necessary to translate into modern terms the great insights and potential of the Preventive System. It is necessary to bring uptodate the basic principles, concepts, the original guidelines, re-interpreting on the theoretical and practical levels both the *great fundamental ideas*, which we all know (the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls; living faith, strong hope, theological-pastoral charity; the good Christian and the upright citizen; joy, study and piety; health, study and holiness; piety, morality, culture, good manners; evangelisation and civilisation...), and also the *great guidelines regarding method* (making yourself loved before feared; reason, religion, loving kindness; father, brother, friend; friendly approach, especially in recreation; winning over the heart; the educator “consecrated” to the well-being of his pupils; full liberty to jump, run and make as much noise as they please...). And all of this put to good use in the formation of the “new” young people of the XXI century, called to live and to come to terms with a huge and unprecedented range of situations and problems, in decidedly changed times, in which the human sciences themselves are going through a phase of critical reflection.

In particular I should like to suggest three approaches, examining more closely the first one.

1. Relaunching the “upright citizen” and the “good Christian”

In a world so profoundly changed from that of the 1800s it would be a grave mistake in both sociological and theological terms to undertake charitable works according to narrow, local and purely pragmatic criteria, forgetting the much wider aspects of the common good at national and international level. Here we may well recognise that Don Bosco was certainly not in the position to do more than he actually did. The way moral consciousness has progressed nowadays in fact has led to a recognition of

the limits of any support provision which, forgetting the political dimension of under-development, does not succeed in having a positive influence on the causes of poverty, or on those sinful structures from which derive the social conditions always criticised by everyone. To think of charity only in terms of giving alms, responding to emergencies means running the risk of operating in the realms of a “false Good Samaritan role” which, in spite of any good intentions finishes up by becoming the expression of a poor quality of solidarity, since it operates according to development models which favour the welfare of some while sugaring the bitter pill for others.

We may recall that in the period following the Council the words “the poverty of the Church” and the “Church of the poor” were used in various ways, even at times contradictory, yet nevertheless we also need to remember that we did not invent the Gospel, just as it was not us who invented its dramatic impact on politics and the economy. Faith makes its mark in history yet cannot be reduced to it. If love for one’s neighbour is not the whole of the Christian message, can one really deny that it is central and essential to it?

It has been said and written that faced with the modern State which has taken upon itself the welfare and social assistance of its citizens, the Church no longer has the opening or opportunity for charitable and assistance work that it used to have in the past. However, the reality of the situation nowadays shows how false such an hypothesis fostered by secular and political voices really is. Very often the Church is once again the point of reference even within the heart of the *Welfare state*. For many years we have heard it said that charitable and assistance work were old-fashioned and out-of-date means, that were no longer of any use in modern society and in the democratic state. But today, even in secular circles, the social role of Christian voluntary service is recognised, the so-called third, non-profit, sector – those initiatives which originate in the parishes, in the associations, in institutions, in local churches...

Should not the fact that nowadays hundreds of millions of people are living in conditions far removed from that “civilization of love”, hoped and prayed for by Pope Paul VI and repeated by his successors, find in us “*a direct response*” in our turning to the formula of Don Bosco, that of the “upright citizen and the good Christian”?

With regard to the “*upright citizen*”, we need to reflect very seriously. Above all, at the speculative level, we need to include in our thinking everything related to development issues – human, juvenile, working class, while at the same time paying attention to the various relevant considerations from the philosophical-anthropological, theological, scientific, historical, methodological points of view. This reflection then needs to take a practical shape *on the level of experience and practical reflection on the part of individuals and of communities*. Here I should like to recall that for the Salesians of Don Bosco, a very significant General Chapter, the GC 23, had indicated as important for the areas and objectives of education the “social dimension of charity” and “the education of the young to a commitment and to participation in public life”, “a sector we have somewhat overlooked or disowned” (cf. GC 23, numbers 203-210-212-214).

If on the one hand we can understand Don Bosco’s decision to be concerned only with “the politics of the Our Father”, on the other we also have to ask ourselves how much his initial choice regarding education understood in the strict sense, and the subsequent practice of his educators to exclude “politics”, from their own lives did not condition and limit the important socio-political dimension in the formation of their charges. Over and above the objective difficulties created by the different political regimes with which Don Bosco had to co-exist, were not others perhaps the contribution of educators prone to conformism, to isolationism with an inadequate culture and little knowledge of the historical and social context?

Therefore we have to move forward in the direction of an *updated* re-affirmation of the “socio-political-educational choice”

made by Don Bosco. This does not mean promoting a kind of ideological activism tied to any particular party political agenda, but the forming of a social and political conscience that then leads to the making of one's life a mission for the common good of society with a constant reference to the inalienable human and Christians values and rights. This therefore means operating according to a more consistent *practical implementation* in this area. In other words, the re-appraisal of the *social aspect of education* – which is already an integral part, even though only imperfectly realised, of the fundamental option for the young, including its proposals and projects – ought to be an incentive in the creation of explicit experiences of social commitment in the wider sense. But that also implies a specific theoretical and practical commitment inspired by a broader view of education in itself, as well as realism and practicality. Slogans and manifestos are not enough. What are needed are theoretical ideas and practical operational projects to be translated into programmes that are well-defined and properly structured.

Someone who is really concerned about the educational dimension will try to exert influence through political means, so that it is taken into consideration in all areas: from urbanisation and tourism to sport and to radio-television systems in which very often market criteria prevail.

We need to ask ourselves whether the Salesian Congregation, the Salesian Family, our Provinces, groups and houses are doing all that they could in this regard? Is their solidarity with the young merely an expression of affection, a gesture of self-giving or also a contribution of real competence, a reasoned response, suited and relevant to the needs of the young and of the weaker classes in society?

And the same needs to be said about the re-launching of the “good Christian”. Don Bosco, “consumed” with zeal for souls appreciated the ambiguity and the dangerous nature of the situation, challenged its presuppositions, found new ways of combat-

ting evil with the limited resources (cultural and economic...) at his disposal.

It is a question of discovering and of providing the help to live in a conscious manner man's vocation, as it truly is. It is precisely in this area that believers can make their most valuable contribution.

In fact they know that human beings and personal relationships are defined by their condition as creatures, which does not indicate an inferior state or dependence, but gratuitous and creative love on the part of God. Man owes his very existence to a gift. He is in a relationship with God in which he plays his part. His life has no meaning outside this relationship. The "other", whom he perceives and vaguely desires is the Absolute, not an extraneous or abstract absolute, but the source of his life who calls him to Himself.

In Christ, the true nature of the individual person, which reason can begin to perceive, finds its total enlightenment. Jesus Christ, through His word, but above all through the power of His human-divine life, in which He manifests his awareness of being the Son of God, opens an individual to the full understanding of himself and of his destiny.

In Him we become sons and daughters and are called to live as such in the contemporary world. This is the reality and a gift the full meaning of which men and women have to gradually appreciate. The vocation of being a child of God is not an optional extra, something tacked on to being human. On the contrary it is of its very essence, the indispensable condition for its authenticity and fullness, that which satisfies its deepest longings, those flowing from its nature as a creature.

But how is the "good Christian" of Don Bosco to be realised? How do we nowadays safeguard the fully human and Christian aspects through means which are explicitly or mainly religious and pastoral against the dangers presented by old or new forms of

fundamentalism and exclusivism? How do we transform traditional education, the context of which was “a mono-religious society”, into an open education, and one that is at the same time critical, in the face of contemporary pluralism? How do we educate to an autonomous life and at the same time to being part of a pluri-religious, pluri-cultural and pluri-ethnic world? Faced with the fact that the traditional pedagogy of obedience, suited to a certain type of ecclesiology has now been superseded, how do we promote a pedagogy of freedom and of responsibility, aimed at producing individuals who are responsible, capable of making free, mature decisions, open to interpersonal communication, actively involved in social structures with an attitude which is not conformist but constructively critical?

2. Returning to the young better prepared

It was among the young that Don Bosco fashioned his way of life, his pastoral and pedagogical heritage, his system, his spirituality. The single-minded nature of the mission to youth in Don Bosco was always and everywhere a reality, even when for particular reasons he was not in direct contact with the young, and even when his activities were not directly at the service of the young, and when he stalwartly defended his charism as founder for all young people in the world in the face of pressure from ecclesiastics who were not always well-informed. The Salesian Mission is consecration, it is “a preferential love” for the young, and this preferential love as we know from its very beginning is a gift from God, but it is up to us to use our intelligence and our hearts to develop and to perfect it.

The true Salesian does not desert the field of youth. He is a true Salesian who has a vital knowledge of the young; his heart beats in tune with that of the young. The Salesian lives and works for them, committing himself to respond to their needs and to their problems. They give meaning to his life: work, school, his af-

fections, free time. He is also a true Salesian who has a theoretical and practical knowledge which enables him to discover their real needs, to create a youth ministry suited to the needs of the times.

Then, for it to have a real impact, fidelity to our mission requires that we be in contact with the “heart” of today’s culture, with the roots of current mentality and behaviour. We are facing truly great challenges which demand serious analysis, relevant critical comment, in-depth cultural exchanges, an ability to appreciate the situation psychologically. So, limiting ourselves to some questions:

- a) *Just who are the young people to whom as individuals and in community we “consecrate” our lives? What do they want, what are their desires and what do we (and God) want for them? Do we know today’s young people? Are we convinced about today’s young peoples’ problems so different in quantity and quality from those faced one hundred and fifty years ago by Don Bosco?*
- b) *What is the quality of our professionalism regarding ministry at the level of theoretical reflection on educational programmes and at the level of pastoral practice? The proof of the matter will be found in its creativity, adaptability, flexibility, its lack of pessimism. What is certain is that for us to achieve “inculturation” we cannot put our trust merely in the documents of the General Chapters of our Congregations, in the most important deliberations of the various groups or in the letters of the Rector Major.*
- c) *Nowadays responsibility for education can only be a collective, combined, fully involved matter. What then is our “link” with the “network of relationships” in the area and also outside the area where our youngsters are living? What is our precise contribution in the form of participation and collaboration within this globalised educational network? Have we taken into consideration the possible solutions, discussing them with third parties?*

- d) *If sometimes the Church finds itself at a loss in the face of the young, is the same not perhaps also true of the Salesians or of the Salesian Family of today?*

3. An education of the heart

In these last decades the new generations of Salesians have perhaps been experiencing a sense of confusion in the face of the older formulations of the Preventive System: either because they do not know how to apply them nowadays or because unconsciously they imagine them to be some form of “paternalistic relationship” with the young. On the contrary, when we look at Don Bosco, seen from the point of view of the life he led we discover him in an instinctive and intuitive manner going beyond the educative paternalism inculcated by the greater part of the pedagogy of the previous centuries ('500-'700). During this time the pedagogical attitude reflected in fact European society, which on the political level too was paternalistically structured. On the contrary, Don Bosco's whole life was marked by interpersonal relationships with the boys and with adults, from which he also derived considerable spiritual benefit himself. There are thousands of episodes and expressions, such as: “Allow me to say, and I hope I offend no one: you are all thieves: I say it and I repeat it: you have taken all I have [...] I still have this poor heart of mine the deepest affections of which you have already stolen [...] this heart is possessed by everyone and in it nothing more remains than a real desire to love you in the Lord»⁶ They illustrate the close companionship, the modern approach, the uptodate quality going much further than the labels: preventive, loving-kindness, charity. Stealing the heart in Don Bosco is a metaphorical and symbolic expression. The boys fully occupy the heart of Don Bosco. There they are at home, there their lives are enriched, there they are happy to be. Today, certainly, styles of interpersonal relation-

⁶ Letter to the boys at Lanzo, 3 January 1876, in *Epistolario*, ed. CERIA, vol. III, p. 5.

ships are different: with a pluralistic society, communication and contacts on a global scale, internet, travel, etc.

We can ask ourselves: nowadays can and do the young and adults find a place in the heart of the Salesian educator? What do they reveal there? A technocrat, a capable but empty communicator, or else a person rich in human qualities, completed and animated by the grace of Jesus Christ, within the Mystical Body, etc.? If they don't find all this, would not Don Bosco be able to repeat more or less those same words: "When in the heart of the Salesian the wealth and depth of the grace of Christ is not found, the Congregation and the Salesian Family will have run their course"?

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THE SALESIAN FAMILY

Starting from a knowledge of Don Bosco's pedagogy and in the light of the reflections presented above, the main focal points and the tasks for the Salesian Family arising from the Strenna for 2013 are the following.

1. The 'gospel of joy' was a permanent feature of the whole life story of Don Bosco and the soul of his many works. "In Jesus of Nazareth God reveals Himself as the «God of joy»⁷ and the Gospel is "good news" which begins with the "Beatitudes" – men and women sharing in the Blessedness of God Himself. It is a question of a not insignificant but profound gift, since joy rather than being a passing sentiment is an interior force which is able to resist in the face of the difficulties of life. Saint Paul says: «In all our hardship, I am filled with encouragement and overflowing with joy» (2Cor 7,4). In this sense, the joy we experience here below is an Easter gift, a foretaste of that full joy we shall possess in eternal life.

⁷ SAINT FRANCIS OF SALES, *Lettre à la Présidente Brulart*, Annecy, 18 February 1605, in *Oeuvres*, vol. XIII, p. 16.

Don Bosco took the desire for happiness the boys had and translated their joy of life into the language of cheerfulness, of the playground, of celebration; but he never stopped pointing out to them that God was the source of true joy. Some of his writings, such as *The Companion of Youth*, the biography of Dominic Savio, the explanation contained in the story of Valentino, are a demonstration of the connection that he established between grace and happiness. And his insistence on the “rewards of heaven” projected the joys of here below into the perspective of their completion and fullness.

At the school of Don Bosco, the person belonging to the Salesian Family cultivates some of the attitudes which encourage joy and communicates them to others.

- a) *Confidence in the victory of good*: «Even the most callous boys have a soft spot”, Don Bosco writes. “The first duty of the educator is to locate that sensitive spot, that responsive chord in the boy’s heart, and take advantage of it».⁸
- b) *Appreciation of human values*: The disciple of Don Bosco is able to make his own what is good in the world and does not bewail his own times; he accepts all that is good, especially if it appeals to the young and the ordinary people.
- c) *Education to the joys of every day*: a patient effort of education is needed in order to learn or to re-learn, to enjoy, with simplicity, the many human joys that every day the Creator puts in our path.

Since they entrust themselves totally every day to the «God of joy » and bear witness in words and works to the «Gospel of joy», all the disciples of Don Bosco are always joyful. They spread this joy and know how to educate to the happiness of Christian life and to a sense of celebration, remembering Saint Paul’s exhortation: «I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord» (*Phil* 4,4).

⁸ BM V, p. 237.

2. The pedagogy of kindness. “The loving kindness of Don Bosco is without doubt a characteristic trait of his pedagogical method which is considered still valid today, both in contexts still Christian and in those in which young people belonging to other religions are living.

It cannot, however, be reduced to simply being a pedagogical principle but needs to be recognised as an essential element of our spirituality.

It is, in fact, authentic love because it draws its strength from God; it is love which shows itself in the language of simplicity, cordiality and fidelity; it is love which gives rise to a desire to correspond; it is love which calls forth trust, opening the way to confidence and to profound communication (“education is a matter of the heart”); it is love which spreads out and in this way creates a family atmosphere, where being together is beautiful and enriching.

For the educator, it is a love which demands a strong spiritual effort: the willingness to be there and to stay there, self renunciation and sacrifice, chastity in affections and self-control in attitudes, participation in dialogue and patient waiting in order to identify the most appropriate moment and the best ways, the capacity to forgive and to renew contacts, the meekness of the one who sometimes knows how to lose, but continues to believe with unlimited hope. There is no real love without asceticism and there is no asceticism without an encounter with God in prayer.

Loving kindness is the fruit of pastoral charity. Don Bosco used to say: «On what is this reciprocal affection based? [...] On the desire I have to save your souls, which were redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and you love me because I try to lead you on the paths of eternal salvation.. Therefore the good of our souls is the foundation of our affection».⁹

⁹ JOHN BOSCO, Letter to Fr Joseph Lazzero and to the community of the artisans at Valdocco, Rome 20 January 1874, in *Epistolario*, ed by Francesco MOTTO, LAS Rome 2003, vol. IV p. 208.

In this way loving kindness becomes a *sign* of the love of God, and a means of re-awakening his presence in the hearts of those who are reached by Don Bosco's goodness; it is a way of evangelisation.

From this comes the conviction that the apostolic spirituality of the Salesian Family is characterised not by a generic kind of love, but by the ability to *love and make oneself loved*".¹⁰

3. Education is a matter of the heart. To understand the famous expression "education is a matter of the heart of which God alone is the master" (*BM XVI*, 376)¹¹ and therefore to understand the Pedagogy of kindness in the Preventive System, it seems to me important to listen to one of the most renowned experts on the educator Saint: "Don Bosco's pedagogy pervades everything he does; and everything he does reflects his personality; and everything Don Bosco is can be summed up in his heart".¹² This was his greatness and the secret of his success as an educator: Don Bosco knew how to harmonise authority and kindness, love of God and love for the young.

"Don Bosco's love for these boys manifested itself in practical and timely ways. He took an interest in the whole of their lives recognising their more urgent needs and with an insight into those most hidden. To say that his heart was totally dedicated to the boys meant that the whole of his being, intellect, heart and will, his physical strength, everything he was and had was directed towards their good, in fostering their all-round development, and with the desire for their eternal salvation. For Don Bosco, therefore, being a man of the heart meant being totally consecrated to the good of his boys and devoting to them all his strength to his last breath!"¹³

¹⁰ Cf. Art. 32 – *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family* – Rome 2012.

¹¹ Cf. Cf. J. M. PRELLEZO, *Dei castighi da infliggersi nelle case salesiane (1883). Una circolare attribuita a Don Bosco*, in P. BRAIDO [Ed.], *Don Bosco educatore. Scritti e testimonianze*, LAS, Rome 1992, p. 340.

¹² Cf. P. BRAIDO, *Prevenire non reprimere. Il sistema educativo di Don Bosco*, LAS, Rome 1999, p. 181.

¹³ P. RUFFINATO, *Educhiamo con il cuore di Don Bosco*, in "Note di Pastorale Giovanile", n. 6/2007, p. 9.

4. The formation of the upright citizen and of the good Christian. “The forming of «good Christians and upright citizens » is the aim most often expressed by Don Bosco to indicate *everything of which the young stand in need* in order to live fully human and Christian lives: clothes, food, lodging, work, study, free time; joy, friendship; active faith, the grace of God, the way to holiness; participation, dynamism, a place in society and in the Church. His educational experience suggested to him a plan and a particular *style of approach* which he himself summed up in the *Preventive System*, which «is totally based on reason, religion, and especially loving kindness».¹⁴

Having an educational presence in society includes the following: a sensitivity to educational issues, educational policies, the educational quality of life in society and culture.

5. Salesian humanism “for Don Bosco meant giving due weight to all that is positive in the life of individuals, in creation, in the events of history. This led him to accept the genuine values present in the world, especially if pleasing to the young; to place himself in the flow of culture and of human development in his own times, encouraging the good and refusing to lament about the evil; wisely seeking the cooperation of many people, convinced that each one has gifts that need to be discovered, recognised and put to good use; believing in the power of education which provides support for the young person’s development, and encouraging him to become an upright citizen and a good Christian; and always and everywhere entrusting himself to the providence of God, perceived and loved as a Father”.¹⁵

6. Preventive System and Human Rights. The only purpose the Congregation has for its existence is the holistic salvation of youth. Like Don Bosco in his day we cannot be spectators;

¹⁴ J. BOSCO, *Il sistema preventivo nella educazione della gioventù*, in P. BRAIDO (Ed.), *Don Bosco Educatore, scritti e testimonianze*, LAS, Rome ³1997, p. 248ss. (Quoted from art. 17 of the *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family* – Rome 2012).

¹⁵ Cf Art. 7 – *Charter of the Charismatic Identity of the Salesian Family* – Rome 2012

we have to be protagonists, fully engaged in their salvation. The letter from Rome of 1884 is demanding that we too in our own day put the “boy at the centre” as the focus of what we do and of all the on-going life commitments we make in each of our communities every day. For this reason, for the holistic salvation of the young, the Gospel and our charism are requiring us to pursue the issue of human rights; it is a new way and a new language that we cannot neglect. We must leave no stone unturned for the salvation of youth. Nowadays we could not look a child straight in the eyes if we were not also engaged in promoting his human rights.

The preventive system and human rights interact and enrich one another. The preventive system offers human rights a unique and innovative educational approach in regard to the movement for the promotion and the protection of human rights, a feature of which until now has been condemnation “after the event” – condemnations of violations already committed. The preventive system offers human rights a preventative education, in other words proposals and action to be carried out “beforehand”.

As believers we can say that the preventive system offers human rights a view of the human race which is inspired by the spirituality of the gospels and which sees as the foundation of human rights the objective fact of the dignity of each individual “without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”.¹⁶

At the same time human rights provide the preventive system with new frontiers and opportunities for dialogue and for collaboration in networking with others in order to identify and to remove the causes of injustice, evil and violence. In addition, human rights offer the preventive system new frontiers and opportunities to have a social and cultural influence as an effective response to the “drama of modern humanity, of the separation be-

¹⁶ Thus art. 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

tween education and society, the gap between schooling and citizenship".¹⁷

In the new globalised context, human rights become one of the means capable of going beyond narrow national boundaries in order to set shared limits and objectives, create alliances and strategies and mobilise human and economic resources.

7. To be read. *The Preventive System in the education of the young*, the *Letter from Rome*, the *Lives* of Dominic Savio, Michael Magone, Francis Besucco, are all writings of Don Bosco which illustrate well both his experience as an educator and the choice of his pedagogical methods. These books in fact were written so that we might come to know our dear founder and father's pedagogical and educational sensitivity, what was dear to him in putting young people at the centre of things, in helping them take the lead in their own formation, the atmosphere to be created to ensure success in education. From this point of view, the biographies become three methods which are different according to the starting point for each of these three boys from the Valdocco Oratory, and suited to their needs. For Don Bosco it was necessary to start from where each boy was without waiting for some ideal situation to arise, concentrating on the values and attitudes they brought with them and setting goals to be reached.

CONCLUSION

I conclude this commentary on the Strenna for 2013 with a poem sent by a Salesian confrere from India. The text expresses very well what true education really is, especially since it is seen and described in the words of a child who tells his mother what is going through his mind and stays in his heart as he watches what

¹⁷ Cf. Fr. Pascual CHÁVEZ VILLANUEVA, *Educazione e cittadinanza. Formal Lecture for the Honorary Degree*, Genoa, 23 April 2007.

she does. As I read the poem I was reminded of what John Bosco said about Mamma Margaret.

In fact the practical atmosphere that education created at Valdocco, and which nowadays is spread around the world has its roots in Don Bosco's childhood lived in the austere and solid setting of the Becchi, and especially of the people around him. Don Bosco himself said: *"They ask me how I educate the boys. I bring them up as my mother brought us up in the family. I don't know any other way"*.

Mamma Margaret was Don Bosco's first and the best educator. Having been left a widow she knew how to show her sons the demanding love of a father and the gentle and selfless love of a mother. From her Don Bosco learned those values and attitudes that he used with his boys, and that as the years passed became the foundation of his pedagogy left to his Salesians:

- *An active presence.* Salesian assistance is not just supervision; it is a presence that makes the boy feel he is loved; which shares with him the taste for working and growing together while making him the protagonist.
- *Daily work.* Taught by his experience of a peasant's work in the fields of the Becchi and with the Moglias, Don Bosco loved to tell his boys: *"A lazy boy will always be a donkey"*, *"Whoever does not get used to work in his youth, will pretty well always be an idler to his old age"*. At Valdocco laziness was not tolerated and work alternated with prayer, play and learning.
- *The sense of God.* Mamma Margaret was for John also a teacher of religion: she prepared him for confession and for first communion, and above all she taught him to recognise the presence of God in ordinary daily life, in creation, in the joyful and the sad events of life. Observing her generosity towards the poor and needy, the future priest gradually acquired a religious piety capable of becoming at the appropriate time practical, simple and genuine charity.

- *Reason synonymous with dialogue.* Peasant wisdom gave the expression “let’s talk about it” different meanings; it was used for having a discussion, explaining one’s ideas, arriving at an agreed shared decision which was taken without anyone wanting to impose his own point of view. Subsequently, Don Bosco made the term “reason” one of the supporting columns of his educational method. From this point of view the conversation between Dominic Savio and Don Bosco is indeed an agreement about education which guided the young saint in his commitment: “*So, I am the cloth and you are the tailor; take me with you then and make me into a beautiful garment for the Lord*”.

In the light of this memory, this poem becomes a message for every adult aware of being an educator, since children and youngsters watch and do what you do, not what you say.

WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T LOOKING

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator
and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you feed a stray cat,
and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking
I saw you make my favourite cake for me
and I learned that the little
things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick
and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it
and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw how you handled your responsibilities,
even when you didn't feel well
and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw tears come from your eyes
and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I saw that you cared
and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good
and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking,
I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things
I saw when you thought I wasn't looking".

Each of us (parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher, friend)
influences the life of a child.

And the important thing is to know how we will touch the life of
someone today.

Let us live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.


Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva
Rector Major

4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major

– *July 2012*

Sunday, July 1st, from Les Combes, where he was from 30th June for a few days rest, the Rector Major and his Council went to Annecy for a pilgrimage to the places linked with St. Francis de Sales.

On the morning of Wednesday 4th, a short meeting of the Council was held. The 25th Anniversary of the priestly ordination of Fr. Fabio Attard was celebrated as a group. In the afternoon, Fr Chávez made a brief visit to the FMA community in Aosta.

On the morning of Thursday 5th, the Rector Major greeted the youngsters at the Salesian school in Ivrea, who were guests at the Alpine camp. In the afternoon he visited the Marian Shrine of Notre Dame de la Guérison with the Council, where they concelebrated Mass.

On Friday 6th the Rector Major and Council travelled to Turin, for a visit to the chapel of the Relics and to take a look at the project for the first courtyard, with a view to its restoration. The Eucharist was celebrated at the Altar of Don Bosco. After lunch, they returned to Rome.

On Saturday 7th and Monday 9th July, office work involved a number of audiences. The Rector Major spent the evening of Monday 9th with the novices at the novitiate at Genzano, who had come to the Generalate. He gave them a Conference on Consecrated Life and celebrated Mass with them.

On Tuesday, July 10th, the General Council meetings resumed as set out in the usual schedule for these meetings. As usual, the Rector Major gave available time to interviews and meetings as well as his personal work in the office. In addition to Councillors and many Provincials, the interviews included: Dr. Carola Carazzone, President of VIS (on Wednesday 11th), Fr Thelian Argaeus Corona, SDB, Rector Magnificus of the Salesian University of Bolivia (on Tuesday 17th), Dr. Magdi Cristiano Allam (on Wednesday 18th), Dr. Maria Milvia Morciano (Thursday 19th), the Superior General of the SMA, Sr Jeyarani (Friday 20th).

Early on Wednesday 11th, the Rector Major met participants at the Sixth Meeting of IUS, then received Fr Adrian Bregolin and then, as usual, went to the Council room.

Another meeting of the Rector Major with participants at the IUS Assembly took place on Saturday 14th.

On Friday 13th, after the Council session, and accompanied by his Vicar and the Economist General, the Rector Major went to Castel Gandolfo, to Villa Barberini, for a meeting with His Eminence, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

On Wednesday 18th afternoon, Fr Chávez returned to Castel Gandolfo for a meeting, the celebration of the Eucharist and dinner with Mother Yvonne and the Sisters of the General Council of the FMA.

On Wednesday 25th, the Rector Major had two meetings (one in the morning and another in the evening) with those taking part in a meeting concerning our Salesian presence in Pakistan (Fr Peter Zago, Fr Miguel Ruiz, Fr Julio Palmieri, Fr George Militante), along with Fr Václav Klement, Fr Andrew Wong, Brother Jean Paul Muller and Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga.

On Thursday 26th, in the evening after Vespers, as usual he gave the 'Goodnight' to the community at the Generalate with a report of the work of the Council during the months of June-July, 2012.

On the morning of Friday 27th, the Rector Major presided at the celebration of the Eucharist with

the Councillors, followed by the final session of the summer plenary session of the General Council. In the afternoon he travelled to the UPS for the video footage presenting the Strenna 2013.

On Saturday morning 28th, the Rector Major left for San'Agnello, for a few days rest. He returned to Rome on Tuesday 31st, at noon.

In the month of July, it should be noted that the Rector Major underwent some periodic checkups with the doctor at the Vatican.

– **August 2012**

After returning to Rome on Tuesday, July 31st, the Rector Major spent 1st and 2nd August working in the office, with some audiences, including one with Fr Peter Zago, Rector of the community in Quetta, Pakistan.

At noon on Friday 3rd, the Rector Major visited the Community of the Sisters of the Cross and, in the evening, rejoined the Salesian Community in the Vatican, recalling the 75 years since the Vatican Press was entrusted to the Salesians by Pius XI.

On the morning of Saturday 4th, Fr Chávez presided at the Eucharist at the conclusion of the study days on Salesian presence (SDB/FMA) among Muslims, and at noon left for Turin and Mornese.

On Sunday 5th, he participated in the 140th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and at the perpetual profession of a group of Sisters from the Auxilium.

From Monday 6th, until the evening of Monday 13th, Fr Chávez took a few days off.

On the morning of Wednesday the 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption, he went to Castel Gandolfo for Mass with the Holy Father in the parish entrusted to the Salesians. After breakfast, in the community, he met His Eminence, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. In the afternoon, he left for Turin.

On Thursday 16th, accompanied by the Provincial, Fr Stefano Martoglio, Fr Chávez went to Colle Don Bosco for the celebration of Don Bosco's birth anniversary and the start of the second year of the three-year preparation for the Bicentenary of this event. In Turin he met many confreres and youth groups from different Provinces in Italy and from North and East of Europe. In the evening he returned to Rome.

The following days were dedicated to the usual office work. Among the meetings he had were those with Cardinal Joseph Zen (Monday 22nd August), with the ex-Korean

Ambassador to the Holy See, a guest at the Generalate (Friday 24th), with Sr. Philomena Mathew, new Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (Monday 27th).

In the afternoon of Tuesday 28th, Fr Chávez, along with some Counsellors, went to the Sacred Heart community for Mass and the installation of the new Provincial of the Central Italy (ICC) Circumscription, Fr. Leonardo Mancini.

Early in the morning of Wednesday 29th he went to Mainz, Germany, to visit the Salesian community looking after the Italian mission. The next day he received a visit from the Provincial of Germany, Fr Josef Grünner.

– September 2012

The Rector Major returned from Germany on Monday 3rd September, resuming his ordinary work, with various interviews and meetings.

Amongst these appointments, it is important to highlight the following: Sr. Maria Chiara Ferrari, Superior General of the Institute of the Little Sisters of Jesus, along with her Council (Tuesday 4th September); interviews with the Provincial of Croatia, Fr Pejo Orkic (Friday 7th), with Bishop Daniel Sturla, SDB, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Montevideo (Tuesday

11th), with the Provincial of AFW Province, Fr Jorge Crisafulli, along with the Provincial Economer (on the same day, Tuesday 11th).

On Friday 7th September, in the afternoon, Fr Chávez received a group of missionaries from India.

The following day, Saturday 8th, feast of the Nativity of Mary, the Rector Major went to Genzano where he presided at the Eucharist for the first professions of the Novices.

On Sunday afternoon 9th, together with his Vicar, Fr Chávez had a meeting with all the confreres in the Vatican Community.

The days from Monday 10th to Thursday 13th were dedicated primarily to the usual work in the office.

On Friday, September 14th, after lunch, the Rector Major travelled to Madrid, where he stayed until Sunday 16th.

In the morning of Monday 17th, the Rector Major met the group of confreres for the new missionary expedition. At lunch he hosted a group of consultants who are helping the Council's Commission for evaluating structures of Government (Dr. Hercules Lucchini, Mrs. Dorothee Overberg, Dr. Strobel, Fr. Joseph Grünner, Provincial of Germany, Fr Marek Chmielewski, Provincial of the Province of Piła, Poland).

On Tuesday 18th, in the evening, Fr Chávez received Bishop Luis Secco, SDB, Bishop of Curaçao and dined together with him and the missionaries.

In the morning of Wednesday 19th, the Rector Major received Fr José Manuel Prellezo, Director of the ISS. In the afternoon he went to the San Camillo Hospital, to visit Fr Roberto Giannatelli.

On Thursday 20th, Fr Chávez, accompanied by his Secretary, Fr Juan José Bartolomé, left for *Japan* to attend the celebration of the *75th Anniversary of the establishment of the Province*.

On Friday 21th, the Rector Major, on arrival in Tokyo, was welcomed by the Provincial, Fr Aldo Cipriani together with other confreres, Sr. Francesca Wakamatsu, Provincial of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sr Monica Kawabata, Superior of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus together with a large number of members of the Salesian Family. Then he was taken to the Studentate in Chofu. In the afternoon there was a Conference for the confreres, followed by an open question and answer session. He then presided at the Eucharist celebrating the official Province Jubilee, followed by dinner and an Academy with the Salesians and benefactors.

On Saturday 22nd, in the morning, Fr Chávez had a meeting with students at the school in Yokohama, followed by a guided tour of the school. After lunch, still accompanied by the Provincial, he left for Meguro where he received the visit of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Joseph Chennoth, then met councillors from the Salesian Family, to whom he presented the Salesian Family Charter of Identity. Then he presided at the Holy Mass, during which 7 new Salesian Cooperators made their promises.

On the morning of Sunday 23rd, the Rector Major presided at the Eucharist with youth from the Salesian parish in the Tokyo zone, after which they were entertained by the youth. In the afternoon he went to Osaka. Upon arrival he met with teachers and past-pupils of the school and various members of the Salesian Family, followed by dinner and a 'Good Night' to confreres.

First thing on Monday 24th, Fr Chávez celebrated Mass in the FMA community, at which some Sisters of Charity of Jesus and some Salesian Cooperators also took part. He then said a brief goodbye to the pupils at the JOSEI school; later he met with Bishop Ikenaga, President of the Japanese Episcopal Conference. On return to the Salesian House, he had a

meeting with the high-school and another with middle school youngsters, followed by the inauguration of a statue of Don Bosco. After lunch he visited the school and soon after departed for Itami Airport (Osaka) and took the plane to Nagasaki. There he was welcomed by the Sisters and confreres in Nagasaki.

On Tuesday morning 25th, the Rector Major, under the leadership of Bishop Francis Osamu Mizobe, SDB, made a pilgrimage to the churches of the martyrs and visited the Atomic Bomb Museum. In the afternoon, in the parish of Nakamachi, he celebrated the Eucharist with the Salesian Family (SDB, FMA, the Sisters of Charity of Jesus, Salesian Cooperators) in this area, followed by a banquet with the participation of kindergarten children of the Sisters of Charity, after which he left for Tokyo. He slept in a hotel in Narita.

On Wednesday 26th, Fr Chávez left for Rome, where he arrived in the afternoon.

On Thursday 27th, in the morning, the Rector Major received Fr Balaraju Raminedi, Provincial of Hyderabad, then Br. Jean Paul Muller, then Fr Adrian Bregolin. In the afternoon he went to the Vatican for a medical examination.

On the morning of Friday 28th, he

left for Turin. Soon after arrival, in the Missions Office, the Rector Major had a meeting with representatives of the DBN (Don Bosco Network). In the afternoon he went to the Turin City Sala Rosa or 'Pink Room' for the official celebration of the 25th Anniversary of VIS (*International Volunteers for Development*).

On the morning of Saturday 29th, Fr Chávez made a visit to the confreres and Sisters at the Andrea Beltrami community, Valsalice. In the afternoon, he went to *Borgomanero* for the celebration of the centenary of the Salesian presence. At the beginning there was an academic event which concluded with the conferral of Honorary Citizenship on the Rector Major by City Hall. Then followed the celebration of Mass and dinner with those taking part in *Harambée 2012*, together with the new missionaries, and at noon presided at the Eucharist, where he officially sent out the 143rd Salesian missionary expedition comprising 45 SDB, 14 FMA, and 12 Lay Volunteers from Italy and Poland. In the afternoon he returned to Rome.

– October 2012

Back home, the Rector Major took up his ordinary work, with interviews and meetings.

In the evening of Monday October 1st, he welcomed Bishop Gaetano Galbusera, SDB, Bishop of the Vicariate of Pucallpa, Peru.

On Tuesday morning, 2nd October, he received Mother Eulalia Marín, Superior General of the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. In the afternoon, at the Auditorium of St. Pius X, Via della Conciliazione the Rector Major's book entitled "Witnesses of the Living God" was presented.

On Wednesday 3rd, in the morning Fr Chávez went to hospital for cardiac monitoring. In the afternoon he went to the Vatican for the official commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of entrustment of the Vatican Press to the Salesian Congregation by Pope Pius XI.

On Thursday 4th, in the morning the Rector Major received the Provincial of Southern Italy Province, Fr Cristiani Pasquali, accompanied by his Vice Provincial, Fr. Angelo Santorsola. At lunch, Archbishop Milton Santos, Archbishop of Cuyabá made a guest appearance.

On Friday 5th, in the morning he received Mr Paolo Mascarino, Assistant to Mr. Michele Ferrero and Mr. Gianni Bariviera. In the evening he went to the Testaccio community where he celebrated mass and, after dinner, gave the 'Good-night'.

On Saturday 6th, in the afternoon the Rector Major received Archbishop Chinnappa Malayappan, SDB, Archbishop of Chennai, India.

On Sunday 7th, the guest at lunch was Archbishop Tito Solari, SDB, Archbishop of Cochabamba, Bolivia.

From Monday 8th until Sunday 28th, the Rector Major participated in the Synod of Bishops on "*The New Evangelization for the transmission of the Christian faith*". During this period he stayed in the Salesian Community in the Vatican. He met many personalities and gave interviews.

On Wednesday 10th, in the early afternoon, he received the French Provincial, Fr Joseph Enger.

In the evening of Friday 12th, he departed for Madrid and the following day presided at the funeral of the sister of his personal Secretary, Fr Juan José Bartolomé.

On Tuesday 16th, along with Fr Francesco Cereda, the Rector Major travelled to the UPS for the inauguration of the Academic Year 2012-2013, returning to the Synod in the afternoon.

On Friday, 19th, in the evening, Fr Chávez was at the Generalate for dinner and had the first meeting with the Provincials and Superiors from Africa and Madagascar, gath-

ered in Rome for the CIVAM meeting.

On Saturday 20th, after the session at the Synod of bishops he had a second meeting with CIVAM. In the days of their stay in Rome, he also, in the time available, met personally with African Provincials and Superiors of Vice-Provinces, as well as the Regional Councillor, Fr Guillermo Basaños.

On Monday 22nd, at noon, in the community at the Vatican, the Rector Major invited all the Salesian and FMA participants at the Synod of Bishops to lunch.

In the afternoon of Thursday, October 25th, Fr Chávez left for Pordenone. He was welcomed by the community and after dinner spoke of the presentation of his book "Witnesses of the Living God". Then he went to the Provincial House in Venezia-Mestre and the next day, early in the morning, returned to Rome to follow the work of the Synod, nearing its conclusion.

On Sunday 28th, in the late morning, he went to the Ersilia Canta community for the Mass for the repose of the soul of Sr. Anita Deleidi, Superior of the community who had died the previous day.

On Monday 29th, in the morning, the Rector Major presided at the Eucharist in the Generalate com-

munity, celebrating its Patron Blessed Michael Rua. After which, he left for the house at Monteor-tone for a few days rest, where he was welcomed and cared for by the Salesian Community. He remained at Monteor-tone until 2nd November.

– November 2012

In the evening of Thursday, November 1st, Solemnity of All Saints, while still at Monteor-tone, Fr Chávez received a visit from the Provincial, Fr Roberto Dal Molin, in conjunction with the Provincial Economer, Bro. Pietro Pettenon.

After returning to Rome on Saturday 3rd, after lunch, the Rector Major, along with his Secretary Fr Juan José Bartolomé, left for Trevi for a meeting with VIDES in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation.

On the morning of Sunday 4th, with Mother Yvonne Reungoat, he took part in an open dialogue with participants at the VIDES Congress, then went to Assisi for Mass in the Basilica, at the end of which the Rector Major departed for Rome.

On Monday afternoon 5th, Fr Chávez received Fr Jesu Pudumai, SDB, Professor at the Faculty of Canon Law at the UPS, then Fr Ángel Astorgano, SDB, President of the OIEC, accompanied by 4 oth-

er members of the International Organization of Catholic Schools.

On Tuesday 6th, in the afternoon, Fr Chávez departed for Sicily, where the following day, along with other Superiors General, he attended the Meeting of CISM, which took place in Acireale.

He returned on Wednesday 7th evening, accompanied by Fr Alberto Lorenzelli, Provincial of Chile.

From the morning of Thursday, November 8th, until Sunday 11th, the Rector Major chaired the World Congress of the Salesian Cooperators Association, during the course of which he spoke on different occasions: a “Lectio magistralis” at the beginning, the ‘Goodnight’ on the first day, the conclusions and the appointment of Ms. Noemi Bertola as World Coordinator, and finally presided at the Eucharist on Sunday.

The following days (from 9th to 15th November) were devoted to ordinary office work with various audiences. Among these one with Archbishop Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, Canada, in the afternoon of Tuesday 13th.

On Friday 16th, in the morning, he left for Trent to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Salesian presence in this city. The programme of celebrations included: Friday evening for a meeting and

dialogue with young people and university students, Saturday morning in the Santa Chiara Auditorium the Rector Major gave an imposing address and, in the afternoon, celebrated the Eucharist in the Church of Mary Help of Christians for the educational community of the Institute and the Salesian Family.

On Sunday morning Fr Chávez made a visit to the General House of the Congregation of Jesus Priest (the Venturini Fathers) and, in the evening, returned to Rome.

On Monday 19th, the Rector Major had a morning meeting with the Executive Board of the USG in the Generalate of the Claretians. In the afternoon he received Fr Luciano Odorico, former Councillor for the Missions and now a missionary in Papua New Guinea. Then he had a meeting with Fr Adrian Bregolin, and Fr Francesco Cereda.

On the morning of Tuesday 20th, he went to the Vatican for medical checkups, then met Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB.

From Wednesday 21st, to Friday 23rd November Fr Chávez participated in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG), the last of his term as President of the Union.

On Monday 26th, in the morning, the Rector Major greeted the mem-

bers of the Youth Ministry Commission.

In the afternoon of Tuesday 27th, he had a meeting with His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

On 28 Wednesday evening the Rector Major met the two communities of FMA novices, which included a lecture on Consecrated Life; prayer followed, with the presence of the Councillors who were still around, and then dinner.

On Thursday 29th, in the evening, along with some Councillors he went to the Church of the Sacred Heart, where he presided at the Eucharist of Thanksgiving for the Beatification of Sr. Maria Troncatì; later in the Provincial House of the FMA he dined with Mother Yvonne and her Council, the SDB Councillors, the Provincial, the community of the House, the ICC Provincial.

On the morning of Friday 30th, the Rector Major received some Provincials and in the afternoon the meeting for Provincials of Europe began, which concluded on Sunday 2nd December. The next day, Monday, December 3rd, the winter plenary session of the General Council began.

4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

The Vicar of the Rector Major

The Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Adrian Bregolin, upon completion of the work of the summer Plenary Session of the General Council, July 28, 2012, travelled to Spain to participate in the final phase of the “School for Salesian Family Delegates” (SDB and FMA Delegates for Salesian Cooperators and Assistants for ADMA). On the 29th the “Salesian Family Charter of Identity” was presented to all participants and those taking part in the meeting of the final assessment. He then spent a few days in Madrid, with the Provincial Centre community.

On the 4th August, along with the Rector Major, he went to Mornese on the occasion of the 140th Anniversary of the FMA Institute, and took part in the Solemn Professions of FMA Sisters on the 5th of August. That was followed by a few days of rest, from 6th to 13th August.

He returned to Rome on the 13th, and on the 15th August he was with the Rector Major at the Mass celebrated by the Holy Father in the Church of San Tommaso da Villanova, the Castel Gandolfo Parish

entrusted to the Salesians. At the end of the celebration, along with the Rector Major, they had a brief meeting with Benedict XVI and, for a longer time, with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State.

On the evening of 15th August Fr Bregolin left with the Rector Major for Colle Don Bosco. On the 16th he took part in the Solemn Concelebration on the occasion of the celebration of the anniversary of Don Bosco’s birth and the start of the second year of the three-year preparation for the bicentenary of this event. On the same day he returned to Rome, where he stayed until September 27.

On the 28th he attended the installation of the new Provincial for Central Italy (ICC), Fr. Leonardo Mancini. Early in the morning of Wednesday 29th he set out with the Rector Major for Mainz (Germany), for a visit to the Salesian community looking after the Italian Catholic mission. He returned to Rome on September 3rd.

Fr Bregolin remained home at work until September 12th, then left on the 13th for *Montevideo* for an animation visit and to preach a Retreat to the Confreres. Arriving on June 14th he paid a visit to Villa Colón first, the work with which the Salesians started their presence in Uruguay. He then met with the

Provincial Council. In the afternoon he had a meeting with the Salesian Family, which was followed by the Eucharist and a festive gathering with the young people.

On the 15th September he celebrated the Eucharist with the community of students of Theology, paid a visit to Salesian Archbishop Nicola Cotugno and, in the evening, attended a prayer meeting with the young people from the Salesian Youth Movement. From Sunday 16th to Friday 21st he preached the Confreres' Retreat. He left Montevideo to return to Rome on 23rd September.

Some days later on the 28th, he accompanied the Rector Major to Turin to take part in the celebrations for the 25th Anniversary of VIS (International Volunteers for Development), at Turin City Hall and, the following day, in Borgomanero, for the Centenary of the Salesian work there. On the 30th September he went to Mornese, where he presided at the solemn Eucharist with Perpetual Profession of the Salesian Sisters from the Tuscany-Emilian-Ligurian Province and then went back to Rome.

On October 11th he went to Milan to attend a meeting in view of *EX-PO 2015*, during which an agreement was signed to involve the

"Don Bosco Network" in this important international event.

On Sunday 21st October, he left for *Los Angeles (USA)*, where he participated in the *meeting of the Provincials of the Interamerica Region*. During the visit he had the opportunity to meet the confreres of the different Salesian works in Los Angeles. He returned to Rome from the United States on 27th October.

On October 29th he went to Montebelluna in Veneto with the Rector Major for a few days rest. On November 3rd, he took part in the International Congress of the Salesian Cooperators from 8th to 11th of November.

On November 16th he accompanied the Rector Major to Trent, to the Salesian Mary Help of Christians School for the celebrations of the 125th Anniversary of their work. On the occasion of this visit to Trent, on Sunday 18th he visited the Mother House of the Congregation of Jesus, the Priest (Venturini Fathers), which is dedicated to helping priests and religious in difficulties.

He left for Ecuador on November 21st to attend the *Beatification of Salesian Sister Maria Troncatti*, a missionary for many years in the villages of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Arriving in Quito on the same day,

22nd he celebrated the Eucharist for those taking part in the Salesianity course at the Salesian Regional Centre for Ongoing Formation. In the afternoon he went to Macas with Mother General Sr Yvonne Reungoat, and a large group of Salesian Sisters. On 23rd November, following a visit to Don Bosco Mission, Sevilla, he went to Sucua for the inauguration of the museum dedicated to the new Blessed, Sr Maria Troncatti. In the afternoon, along with Mother General he had a meeting with the Salesian Family in the Cathedral at Macas and later went back to Sucua where a torch-light procession was held, and then presided at the Eucharist in the public square in Sucua in the presence of many of the local people. On November 24th he concelebrated at the Solemn Ceremony and Eucharist for the Beatification of Sr Troncatti and, in the evening, at the Academy, in the theatre at Macas.

On 25th November, finally, he concelebrated with Bishop Néstor Montesdeoca Becerra, SDB, of the Vicariate, during the celebration of Thanksgiving for the Beatification of Sr. Troncatti. In the afternoon he returned to Quito and the next day left for Rome.

From 30th November to 2nd December he took part in the meeting of Provincials in Europe, at the

'Salesianum', followed by the start of the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for Formation

After the end of the summer session in August 2012 the Councillor for Formation visited the Provinces of Medellín and Bogotá, Colombia. From 31st July to 5th August he visited the Postnovitiate of Bogotá and the Interprovincial Copacabana post-novitiate in the Province of Medellín. He took part in the Curatorium of the Interprovincial novitiate of La Ceja, which saw the participation of Regional Councillor Fr Esteban Ortiz and the five Provincials of BOL, CAM, COB, COM, and PER. Then he went to the Theologate of Bogotá to attend the Curatorium, with the Regional Councillor and the five Provincials of BOL, COB, COM, ECU and PER; here he presided at the celebration of Perpetual Profession and took part in an Ordination to the Diaconate. He finally visited the new Centre of spirituality and ongoing formation for Salesians and laity of the Province of Bogotá, at Fugavasugá. Back in Italy, on the 29th of August he presented the contents and methodology of General

Chapter 27 to the Provincial Assembly of ICC, held in Frascati, in view of the involvement of confreres and communities and their Provincial Chapter.

In *September* from the 10th to 13th he was in Goa, in India, where he attended the Regional Formation Commission of the South Asia Region; on this occasion, he also met with the Provincials in the Region and visited the pre-novitiate at Pinguli-Kudal. From 23rd to 28th he was in Montevideo, in Uruguay, where he attended the Regional Formation Commission meeting for Latin America Southern Cone Region; on that occasion, he also met with the Provincials in the Region; visited the Theologate in Montevideo and took part in the Curatorium involving the Provincials of URU and PAR.

From 3rd to 9th *October*, in Yaoundé in Cameroon, he took part in the Regional Formation Commission meeting for Africa and Madagascar Region and visited the Theologate and the community which looks after the specific training of Salesian Brothers. At Yaoundé-Mimbomam he met with the community and the pre-novices, making a visit to the Salesian Sisters community. After returning to Rome, on the 13th *October* he took part in the Curatorium at the UPS

and on the 16th the inauguration of the Academic Year of our Salesian University. On the 19th he met the Provincials of CIVAM, who were gathered in Rome, reflecting with them on the topic of General Chapter 27. Between 22nd and 24th he visited the Interprovincial novitiate of Kutno, Poland. At Łąd he participated in the Interprovincial Formation Commission for Poland and met the post-novices.

On *November* 1st he celebrated the Eucharist in St. Peter's Basilica for participants in the "Race of the Saints". From the 7th to 10th at Valdodco he coordinated the *meeting of Principals of Salesian Centres of theological studies and of those in charge of the studies at the theologate*; during the meeting, on the 9th, he was at the Crocetta for the celebration of the 75th year of the Faculty of Theology of the UPS and the celebration of the blessing of the tomb of the Venerable Fr. Joseph Quadrio, whose body was transferred to the public church. From 13th to 15th *November* he took part in the Curatorium of the Interprovincial postnovitiate at Nave, involving the Provincials of ILE, ICP, INE and MOR Provinces; he then spoke at a Curatorium meeting for the novitiate at Pinerolo, the Theologate at the Crocetta and the specific training stage for Salesian

Brothers at Valdocco; finally, still at Valdocco, he chaired the Commission for Salesian (Don Bosco) places. On the 20th he participated in the Curatorium meeting for the Interprovincial Novitiate at Genzano in the ICC; from the 21st to 23rd he took part in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) and from 30th November till 2nd December attended the Fourth Meeting of European Provincials at the "Salesianum" in Rome, which was followed by the winter session of the General Council.

The Councillor for Youth Ministry

From August until November 2012, the Councillor for Youth Ministry (YM), Fr Fabio Attard, had the *annual regional meetings in various Regions* as his key commitments. Along with these, there were also some other engagements.

At the beginning of August 2012 he preached a Retreat in San Francisco for the Salesians of United States West Province (SUO). Afterwards, he spent a few days in Berkeley.

In the second part of the month he spent two weeks in Africa, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, for a workshop on Youth Ministry for priests

in their Quinquennium, and for practical trainees and Salesian pastoral coordinators in various works in ATE Province.

At the start of September Fr Fabio Attard led one of the sessions of the Provincial Assembly of the Province of Southern Italy (IME), at Pacognano, on the topic of New Evangelization and Youth Ministry.

By mid-September the Councillor had made the following visits to the Annual Regional Meetings of the Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry: from 15th to 21st September he was in Johannesburg for the Provincial Youth Ministry Delegates for Africa-Madagascar Region; from 23rd to 30th September for Provincial Youth Ministry Delegates for America South Cone Region, in Montevideo. After this meeting, the Councillor stopped over for a few days in Buenos Aires, visiting some works and meeting with various groups in the Province, and also with the students of the Theologate in San Justo.

During the first half of October, the Councillor chaired the DBI Assembly held at the Generalate in Rome. He also paid a visit to Madrid for a meeting with three representatives of the West Europe Region - Spain, Portugal and France.

On October 15th Fr Fabio was invited by the International *Jesus*

Movement to give two lectures on Youth Ministry.

From 16th to 22nd October, the Councillor presided over the meeting of the Provincial Youth Ministry Delegates for the Interamerica Region in Mexico City, Mexico. Between the 25th and 26th October he made a visit to the Salesian College at Treviglio, and also met with the Provincial Youth Ministry Team in Milan.

From October 28th until November 6th Fr Fabio chaired the meeting of the Provincial Youth Ministry Delegates for South Asia Region, held in Guwahati. In conjunction with the meeting of delegates, the Region also arranged a very interesting Seminar on the future of Youth Ministry in that cultural context.

The second Seminar on spiritual direction and Don Bosco, from 9th to 11th November was held in Turin, Valdocco. This is one of the processes of reflection that the Youth Ministry Department is continuing with.

The Councillor also chaired the meeting of Provincial Youth Ministry Delegates for North Europe Region in Budapest, from 13th to 18th November.

The second meeting of the *International Salesian Theological Pastoral Team* was held in Pisa on 26th

and 27th November. This team is working on an edition of the *Basic Framework*, incorporating some elements of the current reflection on New Evangelization.

Finally, from November 29th to December 1st, 2012, Fr Fabio took part in the Fourth Meeting of Provincials in Europe on 'Project Europe'.

The Councillor for Social Communication

August 2012. After the conclusion of the Council's summer Plenary Session, the Councillor General for Social Communication (SC), Fr Filiberto González Plasencia, presided over the meeting of the Provincial Delegates for Social Communication for America Southern Cone and Interamerica Regions from 4th to 9th August; the first part was at Amatitán (MEG) and the second in Mexico City (MEM), also involving Fr Jaime González, member of the SC Department. On the morning of 10th August he met with the Provincial of MEM and his Council and in the afternoon, with the Provincial of MEG and his Council. The next day, 11th August, he met with the Provincial Delegate and SC team in MEG. On the 16th he presided at

the first professions in Mexico City and on the 19th, at the Perpetual Professions in Tlaquepaque, from the two Provinces of MEG and MEM. On 22nd August he had eye surgery, which was followed by a period of convalescence.

September 2012. On 17th September, Fr Filiberto took part in the meeting of the Commission looking at structures of Government in the Congregation. From 17th to 24th he carried out animation visits to the four Provinces of Poland, meeting with the Provincial and his Council in each one, with the SC Delegate and his team, with the National Coordinator for SC, and visited all the formation houses and a number of other houses, always with the purpose of presenting the Salesian Social Communications System and its implementation. From September 24th to 26th afternoon, he carried out an animation visit to the Province of Croatia, meeting with the Provincial and his Councillors, the SC Delegate, Salesian publishing staff, junior staff, and 40 Salesians gathered at the Provincial House, to present the Salesian Social Communications System. From 26th afternoon to the afternoon of 28th he visited the Province of Slovenia, meeting with the Provincial and his Council, the SC Delegate and his team, visiting the Salesian

publishers and other works, presenting to them all the Salesian Social Communications System.

October 2012. In October 2012, in addition to ordinary work in the Department, it is important to highlight, in particular, the participation on the 5th in the Council of SEI (Societa Editrice Internazionale) in Turin, and the following day, the 6th, his visit to ELLEDICI, together with Bro. Hilario Seo. From 14th to 20th September Fr Filiberto made his Retreat in Rome.

November 2012. The most important event for the Councillor for SC in November 2012 was his animation visit to India, from 8th to 24th, to the Provinces of Kolkata, Silchar, Guwahati, Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore, each time including a meeting with the Provincial and his Council, the SC Delegate with his team, the SC National Coordinator, and then visiting all the houses of formation, training and production centres for SC, always with the purpose of presenting the Salesian Social Communications System and its implementation. During these visits Fr Filiberto met, where possible, the Bishops, the staff working for street children, schools, various communities of Sisters belonging to the Salesian Family (FMA, MSMHC, SMA).

At the end of the month he took part, along with the Rector Major and all the Councillors in the meeting of Provincials of Europe, continuing then with participation in the winter Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Missions

After the end of the summer session, the Councillor for the Missions, Fr Václav Klement, stayed in Rome to animate the *Study days on 'Salesian presence among Muslims'* (30th July to 4th August). The event was organized together with the FMA Missions Sector. It was attended by 50 members from 5 groups of the Salesian family (SDB, FMA, SSCC, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Apostles of the Holy Family) from Africa, Europe, Middle East and Asia.

Having finished these study days, Fr Klement left for Buenos Aires to help Fr Natale Vitali with the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Southern Argentina (ARS) in two separate periods (from 5th August to 5th September and from October 1st to 18th) visiting especially the Salesian communities in Patagonia.

The 143rd missionary expedition was prepared for with a 25-day

course (5th-29th September, in Rome and Colle Don Bosco), which was attended by 45 SDBs. On the 30th September in Valdocco, the Rector Major solemnly commissioned the 45 SDBs, and with them 15 FMAs and 11 lay Volunteers.

After the Extraordinary Visitation to the ARS Province, Fr Klement made a visit to the Province of Japan. From the 19th to 28th October he animated the Retreat for Rectors and Superiors, SDB, FMA and SCG at Yamanaka, the Mission Day for young people at Chofu-Tokyo (DBVG Volunteer Movement for the Solomon Islands) and at Tokyo-Suginami spoke to the Salesian Family on the first proclamation of Christ. Returning to Rome, the Councillor dedicated a week to study and reflection.

From 5th to 9th November, the *Study days on the First Proclamation of Christ in Africa*, took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organized together with the FMA missions Sector. This was followed by three days of a Seminar for Mission Animation Delegates (10th to 12th November).

During the mission animation visit to AFC Province (Democratic Republic of the Congo, 13th to 22nd November) Fr Klement visited all four initial formation communities, the majority of communities

in the Lubumbashi area and all the three presences in Kinshasa, as well as attending a Provincial Council meeting. Among the most important moments were the encounters with missionary groups (*Cercle missionnaire*) which have been operating in various Salesian works in the AFC Province since the 1980s.

During the three months (20th September to December 8th, 2012) of the 17th Course of ongoing formation for missionaries held at the UPS Fr Klement was able to meet all 20 SDB participants. For the second time, the Salesian missionaries were hosted in UPS accommodation, accompanied by Fr Jose Anikuzhikattil of the Department for the Missions.

In the days from November 26th to 28th, together with the Economer General, Bro. Jean Paul Muller, he went to Bonn (GER) where there was a Seminar for Directors of Salesian Mission Offices at the service of the Salesian Charism with 40 participants from all eight Salesian Regions. Before the Seminar in Bonn the Councillor carried out a short visit to Brussels (BEN) to meet with the leadership of the "Via Don Bosco" NGO.

Thanks to the collaboration of the Department for Social Communication, from 20th October all ma-

terials of the Salesian missionary Day 2013 '*The journey of Faith in Africa*' are available in digital form on www.sdb.org site and as is the case every year on the 11th November, an appeal for the 144th Salesian missionary expedition of 2013 was also posted.

The Economer General

After the end of the summer session of the General Council, the Economer General, Bro. Jean Paul Muller, was in Moscow where he headed the meeting of Economers of the Provinces of Poland and Ukraine who have taken on the responsibility for the former EST circumscription.

From 10th to 14th August he took part in the European Congress of Educational Psychology in Manchester with a report on the new requirements resulting from the United Nations Convention on the theme "Inclusion". On 15th August he visited the centres in Dublin and in Maynooth in Ireland.

In his visit to Sri Lanka, from 30th August until 6th September, he analyzed the financial situation and challenges. After the meetings with confreres, Sisters and the young in new projects in the north of the island, all centres in areas where

there have been battles and wars for more than 25 years, he returned with the recognition of the enormous contribution that the Congregation has made to the reconstruction of the country.

In Madrid he attended the Administration Council meeting for the Mission Office there to keep himself well informed and to study, along with those in charge, the youth situation in Spain and the challenges to which we are called to respond. After returning to Rome, he had a conversation with the Provincial and the Economist of the AFW Vice Province responsible for developing the presence in Nigeria. On the 13th September he took part in the Board of Directors of the Mission Office in Bonn. Back at the Generalate, from 16th to 19th September, he chaired the Commission on structures of government, before going to New York to present a report to the United Nations (UN). On the 25th and 26th September, together with the new Provincial Economist for United States East (SUE), he took part in the Admin Council meeting for Salesian Missions in New Rochelle. Later, in Bonn, he attended the Installation of his successor as Mission Office Director before going to Verona to meet with the *EduLife* Foundation, where the main topic

was new ideas for 'distance learning'.

From 3rd to 4th October, indicating the need for a "Risk Profile for Investment", he guided the Conference of the Economists of the three Regions of Europe at Munich in Bavaria. From 5th to 7th October, he took part in the meeting of the Economists of CISI, reflecting with them on the results of the 2011 Budgets.

In Milan he was present at the time of signing of the contract for the Salesian NGO for *EXPO 2015*. Back in Rome, between 16th and 19th October, he met each of the African Provincials present for the CIVAM meeting for information on the current situation in different countries with a Salesian presence. Later, at a meeting in Luxembourg from 26th to 28th October he was able to gain an overview of the European market and the consequences for civil society and ecclesial structures.

From 30th October until 7th November he visited more or less all Salesian centres in East Timor ITM, opening two schools for village populations in the mountains. The meetings with young people, parents and teachers at the vocational Centre, but even the talks with representatives of the Government, confirmed the great hope

that this country has for the work of the Salesians in favour of social and spiritual development for future generations. The tireless efforts of the Salesians for a better education will certainly bear good fruit; it requires the solidarity of our Congregation for a qualified and sustainable formation of the Salesians.

Through several meetings with employees at the Generalate, the 'Salesianum' and the General Administration regarding more efficient structures in the various work systems, the Economer General followed up the daily demands of Management Accounting.

On 15th November he was invited to attend the Commission for Salesian Places, held in Turin. On the 19th he met the Cardinal of Paris, who was in Rome to attend a Conference at the "Ludovico Centre". Together with the Councillor for the Missions he led the Seminar for the smaller Mission Office directors of the Congregation in Bonn. In his addresses to them he encouraged new reflection on the challenge of financing the formation of future Salesians.

In Rome he took part from 30th November until 2nd December at the meeting of Provincials of Europe, which was followed by the winter Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Africa - Madagascar Region

Once the summer Plenary Session of the General Council had ended, the Regional Councillor, Fr Guillermo Basaños departed for the Vice-Province of Zambia (ZMB), joining in the celebrations of the pilgrimage of the Don Bosco Casket in the Vice-Province. For this purpose, from 29th to 31st July he was in the two communities in Malawi: Nkhotakota district and Lilongwe.

Later, from 1st to 6th August he visited the communities of the early missionary area to the south of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in AFC Province: Mokambo, Sakania, Kipushya and Kakyelo.

Fr Basaños then travelled to the Blessed Michael Rua Vice-Province of Southern Africa (AFM), chairing two meetings of the confreres, in view of the consultation for the appointment of the new Superior. By the 8th of August he was in Cape Town (South Africa) and on the 9th at Daleside, Johannesburg.

On the 11th of August, the Councillor presided in Maputo (MOZ) at the installation of the new Superior of the Vice-Province, Fr Américo Chaquisse, then on Monday 13th attended a meeting of the Provincial Council.

After two days, on the 15th August Fr Guillermo found himself in the Great Lakes Vice-Province (AGL) in Kigali (Rwanda), where he presided at the installation of Fr Camiel Swertvagher as Superior of the Vice-Province. The following day he presided at the celebration of the first Professions of novices at Butare.

The following weeks saw the Regional Councillor fully engaged in the *Extraordinary Visitation to the English-speaking West Africa Province (AFW)*: Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The initial meeting with the Provincial Council took place on August 18th, and the final one on 12th October. During the Visitation Fr Basaños presided at two celebrations of Professions: a Perpetual Profession on September 2nd in Monrovia (Liberia), and 13 First Professions in Sunyani (Ghana).

From 16th to 20th October Fr Basaños presided over the work of the 11th Assembly of the Conference of the Provinces and Vice-Provinces of Africa and Madagascar (CIVAM) which was held for the first time at the Generalate in Rome. The Superiors of the Region had several moments of sharing with the majority of Councillors for Sectors, concluding a private time with the Rector Major. On October

19th, birthday of the Regional Councillor, about fifty of the Salesians in the Africa - Madagascar Region, resident in Rome, gathered for a moment of sharing, ending with dinner and a Goodnight by the Rector Major.

From 23rd October to 29th November, the Regional Councillor conducted the *Extraordinary Visitation to the Blessed Philip Rinaldi Vice-Province, Haiti*, on behalf of the Rector Major, noting the huge in-situ reconstruction efforts that are being made.

The Councillor for the America - South Cone Region

After the end of the summer Session of the General Council, the Regional Councillor for America South Cone, Fr Natale Vitali, on 30th and 31st July took part in the Curatorium meeting for CRESCO (Regional Ongoing Formation Centre for the Salesian Brother) in Guatemala, together with the Interamerica Region Councillor and other Provincials.

On the first day of August he started the *Extraordinary Visitation in the Ceferino Namuncurá Province of Argentina South (ARS)* by attending a Provincial Council meeting.

There are 39 Salesian communities in ARS and 29 works run by lay people, where a lay person is manager or director of the work. Almost all of these are colleges but lay people are also involved with parishes, Salesian Youth Ministry and other charismatic expressions.

It is a Province which has an area covering 1,254,259 sq km, having 43 cities and 6 provinces of Southern Argentina: Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Neuquén, Río Negro, Santa Cruz and Chubut.

The 247 Salesians work in 195 schools, vocational training centres, nurseries for abandoned children, Oratories; 51 parishes with 117 chapels and missionary work areas with native peoples. There are 2 houses for sick Salesians in Buenos Aires and Bahía Blanca.

The works include 5,360 working contract employees, working with 51,000 students and 3,500 University students.

Given the complexity of this situation, Fr Natale Vitali was assisted by Fr Václav Klement in this visit for about a month and a half.

On September 22nd the Councilor took part in the ADMA Congress in Luján, celebrating the Eucharist with over 400 participants.

On the 24th he took part in the Curatorium of the Theologate in Buenos Aires where 13 students

from two Argentine Provinces study. Later, he met with Argentina's National Mission Office Team and the Salesian Bulletin Team for Argentina.

From 27th to 30th September, Fr Vitali presided at the meeting of 11 Provincials from the Region with a wide-ranging agenda. Also attending were Fr Fabio Attard and Fr Francesco Cereda.

On the 1st and 2nd October he was in Sao Paulo, Brazil, to take part in the Curatorium at the theological studentate of Lapa, which in the coming year will bring together all students of theology of the six Provinces of Brazil.

On 23rd and 24th October, he participated in the city of Córdoba, at the meeting of the two Provincial Councils of Argentina. One of the topics dealt with was the theological studentate in Buenos Aires.

By the 15th of November he had concluded his visits to communities as part of the Extraordinary Visitation of the ARS Province and on the 16th he met with lay and religious directors of Salesian works to give a first report of the visit.

On the 17th he had a meeting with the Provincial Council.

On the 22nd November in Brasilia, he took part in the meeting of 6 Provincials of Brazil and on the 27th returned to Rome to take part

in the meeting of Provincials in Europe and later for the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Interamerica Region

On Saturday July 28th, after the end of the summer session of the plenary General Council, Fr Esteban Ortiz Gonzalez, Regional Councillor for Interamerica, travelled to Guatemala City (Guatemala), and on Sunday afternoon met with the Provincial of the Province of Central America (CAM), Fr Alejandro Hernández Villalobos and his Council, and later on 30th and 31st July took part in the Curatorium of CRESCO (Regional Formation Centre for the Salesian Brother).

On August 1st he went to Medellín (COM) to take part on the following day in the Curatorium of the novitiate in La Ceja, where there are novices from five Provinces (BOL, CAM, COB, COM and PER).

On Thursday evening August 2nd he arrived in Bogota (COB) and took part, on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th in the Curatorium for the Formation community of students of theology from the Andean Provinces (BOL, COB, COM, ECU, PER) 44 students in all.

On Sunday 5th August, the Regional Councillor travelled to Cochabamba to begin the *Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of Our Lady of Copacabana in Bolivia (BOL)*. On Monday 5th he met with the Provincial, Fr Cristóbal López Romero and his Council, and in the afternoon held an assembly with the confrères from the Cochabamba communities to begin the Visitation officially.

On Tuesday 7th August he began his visits to the 21 communities that make up the Province, starting from the missionary presence in Kami.

On Thursday 13th September, after concluding a visit to the community of El Alto (4,100 m) in the Department of La Paz, Fr Esteban Ortiz interrupted the Extraordinary Visit to Bolivia to travel to Quito (Ecuador) and take part in the conclusion of the *Congress on the Memoirs of the Oratory*, which saw participation of members of the Salesian Family from almost all the Provinces of the Americas.

On Sunday August 16th Fr Esteban Ortiz returned to Bolivia to continue the Extraordinary Visitation to the communities in the Department of Santa Cruz.

On Sunday 7th October, for the second time, he interrupted the Visitation and travelled to São

Leopoldo (Brazil) to take part in the Continental Congress of Theology, with the attendance of about 750 people from practically all countries across the Americas.

On Friday 12th he returned to Bolivia to conclude his visits to communities in the Department of Santa Cruz.

On Sunday 21 October, along with Inspector Fr Cristóbal López Romero, Fr Esteban Ortiz went to Los Angeles (California, USA) to coordinate the *meeting of Provincials of the Interamerica Region*. Fr Adrian Bregolin, Vicar of the Rector Major, was also present for a few days.

The meeting of Provincials having ended, on Sunday 29th October the Regional Councillor went to Quito (Ecuador), where he took part in the annual gathering of the "Extended Team" of the Salesian Regional Centre for Ongoing Formation (CSRFP) with Fr Natale Vitali, Regional Councillor for America South Cone, representatives of the Departments of Formation and Youth Ministry (Fr Horácio López and Fr Rafael Borges, respectively), the Formation Coordinator for CISUR (Fr Luis Taiwo) and the members of the CSR Team (Fr Javier Altamirano, Fr Fernando Peraza, Fr Julio Olarte and Fr Josué Nascimento).

On Wednesday, October 31st Fr Esteban returned to the Province of Bolivia to conclude his visits to communities and plan some meetings with Provincial Commissions.

On Tuesday, November 13th he had a meeting with the Rectors; the next day in the course of the morning, he presented the final report of the Visit to a large group of Confreres coming from practically all communities, and in the afternoon met with the Provincial and his Council.

On Thursday, 15th he began his journey to Mexico for the consultation for the appointment of a new Provincial (MEM); to do this he had four meetings with the Confreres in different parts of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province: Morelia, Mexico City, Oaxaca and Puebla; he also had a meeting with the Provincial, Fr Miguel Aguilar Medina, and his Council.

Taking advantage of being in Mexico, on Sunday 18th the Regional Councillor met Fr Salvador Cleofas Murguía, the Provincial of MEG and his Council in Guadalajara, with a view to evaluating the implementation of recommendations of the Rector Major after the Extraordinary Visit made in 2010.

On Thursday 22nd November, Fr Esteban Ortiz González travelled to Quito (Ecuador) to attend the

Beatification of Sister Maria Troncatti, Salesian missionary in the Vicariate of Méndez.

Finally he went to Guayaquil, from where he began the return trip to Rome, arriving on Thursday, 29th November to take part in the meeting of Provincials of Europe, and later, the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania Region

After the end of the summer Session of the General Council, the Regional Councillor for East Asia-Oceania, Fr Andrew Wong, visited the Vice-Province of Myanmar from 1st to 4th August. Here he met with different groups of confreres in initial and ongoing formation. He also met with the Salesian Sisters (FMA) who were celebrating the 140th Anniversary of their founding.

Subsequently, from 5th to 8th August, the Regional Councillor was in Papua New Guinea, a Delegation of the Province of the Northern Philippines, meeting with the Provincial Delegate and each Delegate of the various Sectors of the Delegation: Formation, Youth Ministry, etc.

On 10th August the Regional reached Hong Kong to attend the

installation of the new Provincial of the Province of China, Fr Lanfranco Fedrigotti. From Hong Kong he went to the Province of Philippines North to meet with the Provincial and the Delegates of the different Sectors of the Province.

On the Solemnity of the Assumption, Fr Andrew Wong presided at the Perpetual Profession of three confreres at the Theological Studentate at Parañaque; after which, on the 16th, the Regional attended the meeting of the Curatorium at the Don Bosco Centre in Parañaque. The meeting was attended by Provincials of the Interprovincial Theological Studentate.

On 20th August the Regional traveled to Seoul to start the *Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of Korea*. During the Visitation the Regional met with the confreres, with different groups of the Salesian Family and attended the annual Salesian Family Spirituality Day. He also visited the missionary territories of the Province in Yanji (Manchuria) in northern mainland China.

During the festivities of Thanksgiving in Korea, the Regional left the country to visit some other Salesian presences in the Region. He was in Mongolia and Vietnam for animation visits during the pe-

riod from 29th September to 10th October.

The regional then resumed the Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of Korea from October 11th until 14th November. He concluded the Visitation with meetings with the Provincial, the Rectors and the Provincial Council.

The Councillor for the South Asia Region

Once the Summer Plenary Session of the General Council had ended, the Regional Councillor for South Asia, Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga presented a report to the meeting on the history of our mission in Muslim countries which took place at the 'Salesianum'. Subsequently, on 4th August he left Rome and went to Dimapur for the installation of the new Provincial, Fr. Nestor Guria, on August 7th.

After some days spent visiting houses in Chennai (INM) and Tiruchy (INT), Fr Maria Arokiam attended the Provincial Council meeting in Guwahati, on the 14th August. He also attended the meeting of Don Bosco Action India (India Development Offices), at the national level, held at Guwahati.

On 16th August, the Regional was in Chennai - Don Bosco - Perambur,

for the inauguration of the Missionary Aspirantate for South India. This event was followed by a series of visits to the houses in the Province of Chennai (INM), meeting with confreres and with the Salesian Family. On 24th August he spoke at the meeting of the Secretaries of the South Asian Region, held at the Provincial House in Chennai. On 31st August he left for Sri Lanka to visit our presences in a three-day tour, along with Bro. Jean Paul Muller, in relation to the work of development on the island.

Returning to India, on September 5th he addressed the members of the Renewal Course at the Don Bosco Centre for Ongoing Formation in Bangalore. Later, he led the half-yearly meeting of the Salesian Provincial Conference Council of South Asia in Goa, followed by participation in the meeting of the National Formation Commission, under the leadership of Fr. Francesco Cereda.

After presenting a report to the International Conference of Peace and Harmony in New Delhi on 11th September, the Regional began the Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of New Delhi (INN) on 14th September, with meetings of the Provincial Council, Rectors and leaders of communities. The programme began with the canonical

visitation to presences in the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal, Haryana, Kashmir and New Delhi. During the Visit, Fr. Maria Arokiam also had meetings with the Bishops of the dioceses of Shimla, Lucknow, Jabalpur, New Delhi, Bareilly, Khunti, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Gumla and Ranchi, in the territory of the Salesian Province of New Delhi. Apart from visiting each and every Salesian presence, in every presence the Regional met members of the Salesian Family, staff, and students and, as far as possible, other Associations that collaborate with us. The Extraordinary Visit to New Delhi ended on November 26th, 2012 in the Provincial House with the meeting with the Provincial Council and with the confreres on the occasion of the Provincial Community Day. On 29th November the Regional returned to Rome for the winter Session of the General Council, which was preceded by the meeting of Provincials in Europe.

The Councillor for the North Europe Region

After the Council's summer Plenary Session, the Regional Councillor, Fr Marek Chrzan, spent a holi-

day in Poland, visiting parents and family. On the 12th of August he took part at Krakow (PLS) in the celebration of the Jubilee of 15 years of the Salesian Youth Missionary Volunteer Movement. On the 18th to 19th August he travelled to Lviv for the inauguration of the new Greek-Catholic Circumscription, Ukraine (UKR), with the installation of the new Superior, Fr. Onorino Pistellato. From the 26th to 29th August he went to Moscow for the last meeting of the Provincial Council of the East Circumscription and the meeting with confreres along with the Provincials of the Polish Provinces involved, to bring the Circumscription to a close and open the new circumstance shared between three Provinces of Poland.

On 3rd September he left for the Czech Republic for the *Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of St John Bosco in Prague (CEP)*. The meeting with members of the Provincial Council in Prague and with the Provincial Delegates for the different Sectors were the first acts of the visit. Afterwards, the Regional visited the community in Moravské Budějovice and met with the confreres taking part in the Retreat at the Carmelite Convent in Kostelni Vydri. In the days following he visited communities in Sebranice and Brno-Líšeň.

On Sunday 16th September he took part in the ceremony of Perpetual Profession of three confreres from Krakow Province, at Oswiecim in Poland. Then he returned to CEP to continue visiting the communities of Brno-Žabovřesky, Prostějov, Fryšták, České Budějovice, Prague-Kobylysy.

On 13th October he took part in the Beatification Ceremony for the Franciscan martyrs in the Cathedral in Prague and had a chance to meet Cardinal Angelo Amato, SDB, who came to Prague to preside at the celebration and visit the Provincial Community. Afterwards, he continued visiting communities in Pardubice, in Praha-Dolní Počernice, in Praha JABOK and Teplice. He took part in the formation meeting of representatives from Youth Centres and of priests from across the Province, which took place in Pardubice. Then he left for Bulgaria to visit the mission in Bulgaria at Kazanlak and Stara Zagora. In Sofia he met the Bishop of the diocese in which Czech confreres were working and the Apostolic Nuncio to Bulgaria.

In the days from October 30th to November 2nd the Regional took part in the Salesian History Seminar run by ACSA at Benediktbeuern, in Germany.

Afterwards, he resumed his visit to the Czech Republic, visiting communities in Plzeň and Filipov-Rumburk. On the 10th November he took part in the meeting of young leaders from across the Province at Brno, after which he visited the communities in Zlín and Ostrava.

From 21st to 25th November he went to Warsaw Province, Poland, to hold the consultation for the appointment of a new Provincial. The consultation occurred in three places: Elk, Lodz and Warsaw.

On November 25th the Regional returned to the Czech Republic in Fryšták for a final meeting with the Provincial Council. On 26th and 27th November the Visitation concluded with a meeting with Rectors of Salesian houses from across the Czech Province.

On 28th November he returned to Rome to take part in the meeting of Provincials in Europe and later for the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the West Europe Region

At the end of the Summer Session of the General Council, the Regional Councillor Fr José Miguel Núñez left Rome for León where there was

a course for new Rectors in Spain and Portugal being held during the first days of August. Afterwards he went to Barcelona where he remained for the rest of the month, following a course in the Catalan language. In the last week of August he preached the Retreat to the Salesians of the Province.

On 31st August the Councillor travelled to Lisbon to take part in the Provincial Council meeting in Portugal and accompany the revitalization process set in motion following the Extraordinary Visitation and the Provincial Chapter of 2010.

From 1st to 7th September Fr José Miguel spent a week with his family.

From 8th to 10th September the Councillor returned to Madrid, where he attended different meetings with Provincials in Spain, the National Centre for Youth Ministry and the Mission Office in Madrid.

On September 11th Fr José Miguel went back to Barcelona to begin the *Extraordinary Visitation of Our Lady of Mercy Province* in the Rector Major's name. The visit continued until the end of November, visiting all the Salesian houses, talking with the confreres and lay people in the various works, presiding at the Provincial Council and meeting with the Rectors, tak-

ing part in several scheduled meetings. During the Visitation he also presided at the events of the visit of the relic of Don Bosco to the houses of the Province. During the months of his stay in the Province he was received in audience by various Bishops.

During the first week of November, the 5th to 7th, the ordinary meeting of the Iberian Conference took place in Madrid.

On 29th November he returned to Rome to take part in the meeting of Provincials of Europe and later, the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Italy and Middle East Region

After the summer Plenary Session of the General Council, Fr. Pier Fausto Frisoli, following a visit to his ageing parents, attended the installation of the new Provincial for Central Italy (ICC), Fr. Leonardo Mancini, on August 28th. On the 30th August at a meeting in the same Province, he addressed the ICC on "Significance, redimensioning, relocation". On the 1st September, in Venice-Mestre he took part in the Provincial Assembly of the North-East Province (INE) and presided at the Eucharist for

the installation of the new Provincial, Fr Roberto Dal Molin.

On 17th September he received the Perpetual Profession of confreres from Lombardy - Emiliana Province (ILE) in Milan. From 18th to 20th September he presided at the CISI in Rome at the Sacred Heart community.

On 23rd September he began the *Extraordinary Visitation of the St Paul Province Sicily (ISI)*, taking part in the Teachers Forum in Catania. He then visited the communities of Sant'Alfio, Taormina, Pedara, San Gregorio, Catania, Cibali, Barcellona, Pozzo di Gotto,

Leonforte, San Cataldo, Canicattì, Catania St Dominic Savio, Catania Via Teatro Greco, Catania Barriera, Messina St Thomas, Catania Oscar Romero. During the first phase of the visit he met with the Provincial and the Provincial Economer, Rectors, Priests and representatives of the Oratory, provincial delegates, the FMA Provincial, Sister Anna Razionale and the diocesan Bishops.

On 29 November he returned to Rome to take part in the Fourth Meeting of Provincials in Europe and later the winter Plenary Session of the General Council.

5.1 The Message of the Rector Major for the Beatification of Sr Maria Troncatti, FMA

The text of the message that the Rector Major Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva, sent on the occasion of the Beatification of Venerable Maria Troncatti, FMA, at Macas (Ecuador) on November 24, 2012, presided at by Card. Angelo Amato, SDB, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

I am very pleased to respond to the invitation to send a message on my own behalf on this occasion of the Beatification of Sister Maria Troncatti, a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians which takes place in Macas, Ecuador, on 24 November 2012.

It is a case of recognising in the light of faith the meaning of the events surrounding this outstanding consecrated woman, missionary, and mother for everyone who had the grace of meeting her. Above all it is the testimony of someone who truly lived out the apostolic passion of the “Da mihi animas, cetera tolle” by accepting the demanding ascetic approach of “work and temperance” as the essential condition for “bearing fruit”. This Daughter of Mary Help of Christians in

Ecuador’s Amazonian forests became ‘doctor’ for bodies and souls: while she looked after people and succoured them, she evangelised, proclaiming and testifying the infinite love of the Father and the motherly tenderness of the Help of Christians to everyone. Her Beatification is a keen reminder of the long line of heroic and generous missionaries, Salesians and Salesian Sisters, who sowed the Gospel in the Ecuadorian Amazon through tears, sweat and often with their lives.

Sr Troncatti’s Beatification is a privileged sign of God’s love for the entire Salesian Family and for the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in particular. Holiness in the Family honours every group that finds renewal in the Salesian spirituality of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. It is an encouragement to live our charism passionately and pass it on to younger generations in a world full of challenges but also full of signs of hope.

Maria Troncatti’s life was truly consecrated in truth beginning with God, in communion with Jesus Christ and in the love of the Holy Spirit. She was united with and conformed to Jesus Christ by her self-denial and her faithful living out of the commitment she had

made in her religious profession. Thanks to her faith and ongoing self-sacrifice, she shines out for her extraordinary ability to know how to marvellously combine proclamation of the Gospel with human development, resulting in spiritual conversion and human and social liberty. She belongs to the large group of people from whom fresh rivers of water have flown and still flow, filled as she was with the joy of faith expressed through radical obedience and the power of love.

It is significant and moving, in this Year of Faith, that the Church officially recognises the holiness of this daughter of hers, wherein she becomes a sign of hope in a world where religious illiteracy is spreading and on the increase. She seized every opportunity to point to salvation in the name of Jesus and Mary: whether she was sewing, or at the side of the sick or being the doctor, the word of the Gospel was always sowed by her in terms of intimacy between people; it came down on them as a doctor curing wounds and inflictions of heart and soul. Her Beatification helps remind us that the proclamation of salvation in Jesus' name is at the heart of mission.

Finally I would like to remind you that this event of grace falls

during our preparations for the Bicentenary of the birth of our Father and Founder Don Bosco. The newly beatified Maria Troncatti was the living embodiment of our Salesian motto *Da mihi animas cetera tolle* in a unique way, through her unconditional zeal for and dedication to souls, to the point of giving her life for them. Sister Maria was concerned about the whole person, his or her physical and spiritual needs. By her example and message she reminds every member of the Salesian Family that we are not only concerned about the body but also the needs of the soul. How many souls she saved! How many babies she rescued from certain death! How many girls and women's dignity she defended! How many families she formed and guided in the truth of conjugal and family love! How many fires of hate and vengeance she extinguished through the power of patience and by giving her life! Everything she did, she did with great apostolic and missionary zeal. Her constant availability, renewed dedication every day at the foot of the altar, and her final gift of the supreme sacrifice of her life was for reconciliation and peace.

May Blessed Maria Troncatti obtain for us the grace of generously

corresponding with our Christian calling and may it reawaken in our Christian families and religious communities the gift of faith and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel especially to the young and the poor.

Pascual Chávez V.
Fr Pascual CHÁVEZ V. SDB
Rector Major

5.2 Message from the Rector Major on the 75th Anniversary of the Faculty of Theology in Turin-Crocetta, with a special memento of the Venerable Fr Giuseppe Quadrio

The text of the message that the Rector Major Fr Pascual Chávez, Villanueva, sent on the occasion of the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the Theology Faculty at the Salesian Pontifical University in Turin-Crocetta section, with a special memento of the Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio, "one of the most prestigious figures" who has worked in the faculty.

On the occasion of the Conference organized at the Turin Section of the Faculty of Theology of our Salesian Pontifical University I would like to present you with this message. The Conference is being held

to commemorate this important anniversary of the 75 years of the Faculty of Theology and to help raise a wide and deep awareness of one of the most prestigious figures who has worked in it, that of Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio. The two elements on which this initiative draws attention deserve to be underlined, because they illuminate each other and suggest important reflections, which I would like to share with you.

1. The Faculty of Theology of the UPS

The anniversary of the Faculty of Theology refers to the commitment that the Congregation has had for the cultural and spiritual education of the confreres. As early as 1905 Blessed Michael Rua had written in a Circular Letter: we need to "regularise things more each day and to this effect we give high priority amongst our noble aspirations to the intellectual and moral formation of our seminarians" These efforts resulted in the establishment of the first International Hall of Residence for the Congregation at Foglizzo Canavese, which had already in 1913 been given permission by the Holy See to confer academic degrees of Baccalaureate and Licentiate.

The outbreak of the First World War, sadly, scattered students and forced things to start again on a new basis. It was Blessed Philip Rinaldi who opened the International Don Bosco Institute in 1923 in Turin, in the suburb of the Crocetta, where he used to visit personally to follow up the formation of confreres. Here, thanks to the foresight and determination of Fr Peter Ricaldone, in 1937 the Faculty of Theology came into existence. Along with the Faculties of Philosophy and of Canon Law, it formed the Salesian Pontifical Athenaeum that was set up in 1940.

The International Theological Institute at the Crocetta, therefore, can claim the distinction of being the first shoots of what would become the Pontifical Salesian University. This formation community and study centre has had a special significance in the history of the Congregation because it has formed confreres who have had prominent roles in the life of the Congregation and the Church. Suffice it to say that in Turin, Crocetta, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary of State, Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, Cardinal Raffaele Farina, archivist and librarian Emeritus of the Holy Roman Church, who was also Dean

of the Faculty for twelve years and Rector Magnificus of UPS, the late Cardinal Alfons Maria Stickler were all students. Fr Juan Edmundo Vecchi also studied at the Crocetta – he was Regional Councillor for Latin America-Atlantic, then General Councillor for Youth Ministry, Vicar of the Rector Major and then became the eighth successor of Don Bosco. Cardinal Antonio M. Javierre Ortas, who was also Dean of the Faculty and Rector Magnificus over the years of the passage from the Athenaeum to Pontifical Salesian University, taught here.

The Faculty of Theology moved to Rome in 1965, while here in Turin the study Centre continued to operate as a Section of the same Faculty. Today the Faculty, in addition to having the Italian language section here in Turin, also has an English language Section in Jerusalem. The Faculty of Theology of the UPS with its three institutes of Systematic Theology, Spiritual Theology and Pastoral Theology, its two Sections, four Aggregated Institutes and 10 Affiliated Centres or Centres at least in the process of affiliation, intends to continue its mission in the service of the Church and the Congregation with academic competence, spiritual depth and apostolic courage.

The Faculty of Theology of the UPS is called upon to continue to provide a *quality service* by responding, in close collaboration with other faculties, especially to the new spiritual and pastoral needs of young people and the urgent needs of formation of vocations. Within the Pontifical Salesian University it should offer its contribution to understanding the mutual implications of the processes of education and evangelization, pedagogy and pastoral ministry. It should stimulate the qualification of Salesian Centres of Theological studies and help the qualification of confreres, thus helping to maximize the intellectual and cultural level of the Congregation. It should reflect, along with all the universities, on the specific contribution of the Salesian charism in the Church and in society, the Congregation and the Salesian Family, young people and families, especially with the imminent arrival of the Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco.

2. The figure of Fr Joseph Quadrio

Certainly among those who have honoured the Faculty of Theology the extraordinary figure of the Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio, in particular, stands out. His witness

of life and thought is a valuable point of reference for understanding the meaning of Salesian priestly formation.

A text written by him at the beginning of an academic year, reveals his state of soul faced with the duty of teaching Sacred Theology to future priests. His was a simple soul and at times a very deep one: "My dear friends, I have never felt more deeply the truth of what I have said on other occasions: only an unconscious person or a Saint could stand up here at this podium without shaking. It has been said that in the life of a priest, one of the biggest graces is to have had a good Professor of Theology. But a good Professor of Theology is not something so easy and simple: he is neither a poet nor even a mathematician; he is not a romantic, nor is he cerebral; he is not a futurist, nor even a traditionalist; he is not a mystic nor a positivist; he should first be a Saint: and I ask you to excuse my not being one!"

It is difficult to express in the right words the synthesis of theological knowledge and spiritual stature that is required by one's mission as teacher/formator. The greatness of Fr Quadrio lies in the quality of this synthesis. At the level of theological competence he had

prepared with serious and rigorous studies, that had led him, at just 25 years of age, to hold a solemn public disputation at the Gregorian University on the definability of the Dogma of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, on December 12th 1946, to which he later dedicated his research for his doctorate. With regard to his spiritual maturity Fr Quadrio speaks to us all on a we find page where he reveals his clear perception of the paradoxical character of Christianity, which cannot be known except by entering with Christ into the mystery of the Passion or, as he liked to say, into the Garden of Olives. "It is there that we find Christianity", he wrote on September 6th, 1957, "if the good did not suffer, God's Kingdom would no longer be a scandal and a failure, as it has been since Calvary, but would become a peaceful Republic of conformist thinkers. But from that time the Lord has allowed himself to be found only under the olive trees. Not only the Lord of holiness and joy, but also the Lord of the apostolate and of theology".

The "priest with a child's smile", as Fr Quadrio was aptly named, was therefore deeply rooted in the Paschal mystery of the Lord. The joy and serenity that he transmit-

ted to all those he met were born from a deep immersion in the heart of Christ. The urgency of holiness was the secret of his life and the inspirational light of his theological doctrine.

I hope we can positively resolve the process regarding the miracle for Venerable Fr Josephe Quadrio, so that we may arrive as soon as possible at his Beatification and then we can present him with the authority of the Church as a model for teachers and Salesian candidates for the diaconate and priesthood. Along with numerous Saints and Holy Doctors of the Church, we need to see the holiness gained through study, research and formation in the Salesian perspective also made concrete, reminding us of the unitary project of Don Bosco's life, saying: "For you I study, for you I work, for you I am willing to give my life".

On this occasion I want to point our teaching faculty at the UPS, its Sections and its aggregated and affiliated Centres to the figure of Fr Joseph Quadrio; may they be inspired by him in the deep spiritual life that longs for holiness; may they devote their lives to study, research and teaching as a true Salesian mission; may they be aware that their task must always be in-

spired by a formative and pastoral aim towards their students and readers; may they take on his gentleness, loving-kindness, politeness, joy, as a style of relationship and dialogue. The time that lecturers dedicate to their spiritual life is not time taken away from their studies, but is the condition of its effectiveness; therefore may they ask his intercession so that they may live the grace of unity.

Fr Quadrio gave special and predominant attention to *Salesian candidates for the priesthood*; through the study of Theology and his life's example he aimed at helping them form the Salesian priest within them. To his nephew Vale-rio, who was on the way to the priesthood, he said: "You are present every day in my Mass and in my prayers, because I'm very interested in your priestly formation. You do not realise in fact how concerned I am about the final maturation of your character in those human and natural virtues that will make you a genuine, complete and winning human being. These human virtues are generally very small and basic but crucial: sincerity, loyalty, friendliness, kindness, generosity, absolute mastery of self, alacrity in action, unflappable calm in mishaps, unwavering con-

fidence, constancy of purpose, willpower that knows what's best, with clarity and calm steadfastness".

May Salesian students of theology draw on the richness of his writing, his life and look to him as a model priest, invoking his intercession in preparation for the priesthood. May they commit themselves to the study of theology, enrich their spiritual life, their pastoral activity, nourish their understanding of faith and culture. May they remember his advice to a young priest and practise it: "The Mass is the sun that shines in your day. The Breviary is the best thermometer of your priestly zeal. Regular and careful confession will save your priesthood from superficiality, illusions, lukewarmness and catastrophe. Souls are your only passion. Charity is the soul and style of your priestly life".

* * *

"Study and piety will make you a true Salesian", Don Bosco wrote to a colleague. This phrase, which was placed at the beginning of the *Motu Proprio Magisterium Vitae*, by which Pope Paul VI conferred on the Salesian Pontifical Athenaeum the title of Pontifical University in 1973, found an exemplary fulfil-

ment in the life of the Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio. It is a programme that we need to continually inspire us in our personal lives, as well as in promoting our academic institutions.

This is my wish for the Faculty of Theology of the UPS and for all of you. May the Venerable Fr Joseph Quadrio intercede for us, so that these desires and intentions become reality.


Fr Pascual CHÁVEZ V. SDB
Rector Major

5.3 New Salesian Bishop

Mgr. KUTTINADAR George Rajendran, Eparchial Bishop of THUCKALAY of the Siro-Malabar Rite (India)

On August 24, 2012 the Vatican Press Office announced that the Synod of the Archiepiscopal Church of the Syro-Malabar, assembled at Saint Thomas Mount, in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, having received Papal consent, canonically elected the Salesian priest *George Rajendran KUTTINADAR as Eparchial Bishop of the*

Syro-Malabars of THUCKALAY (Tamil Nadu, India).

George Rajendran Kuttinadar, was born on April 14th, 1968 at Padanthalumoodu, a member of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Thuckalay (Tamil Nadu, India), made his first Religious Profession on April 14, 1994, at the end of the novitiate went to Shillong - Sunnyside, in the Province of Guwahati. On May 23rd 2002, he was perpetually professed and was ordained a priest on December 29th 2003, at Padanthalumoodu, his hometown.

In the Province of Guwahati, after ordination, he exercised his ministry, devoting himself especially to the education of youth in Salesian houses at Guwahati - Don Bosco (2004-2006), Shillong - Savio Juniorate (2006-2007), Shillong - Salesian Training Centre (2008-2012). At the time of his appointment he was Rector of the Salesian community of Shillong - Salesian Training Centre and Vice-Rector of the minor Seminary at Shillong. He was consecrated Bishop on September 16th 2012, at Padanthalumoodu by Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly of the Syro-Malabars, former Eparch of Thuckalay.

5.4 Our deceased confreres (3rd list 2012)

"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" (C. 94).

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P AKIMOTO Yasuo Martino	Beppu (Japan)	28-08-2012	98	GIA
P ALMEIDA Bartolomeu de Barros	Recife (Brazil)	20-08-2012	101	BRE
P AMBROSIO Bartolomeo	Guatemala (Rep. Guatemala)	22-08-2012	95	CAM
L BAETEN Herman	Hasselt (Belgium)	23-07-2012	89	BEN
P BARBOSA José Bonifácio	Porto Alegre (Brazil)	24-07-2012	83	BPA
P BASARTE GARCÍA Benito	Barcelona (Spain)	30-07-2012	83	SBA
P BEBER Alvino	Luanda (Angola)	27-08-2012	89	ANG
P BERTOLLI Modesto	Pella (Italy)	24-07-2012	83	ILE
L BREVI Giovanni	Belém (Brazil)	08-09-2012	67	BMA
P BURCIAGA SAUCEDO Alfonso J.	Veracruz (Mexico)	04-09-2012	70	MEM
P CADELLI Giuseppe	Varazze (Italy)	26-08-2012	79	ICC
P CATONDA Manuel Mackson	Matola (Mozambique)	04-12-2012	36	MOZ
L CHEUNG Thomas	Hong Kong (China)	16-07-2012	87	CIN
L CODEN Lino	Venezia-Mestre (Italy)	20-11-2012	91	INE
P COLADONATO Vito Rocco	Varazze (Italy)	17-07-2012	88	ICC
P COLUSSI Dino	New Delhi (India)	27-08-2012	83	INN
L COSTANTINI Livinio	Ancona (Italy)	30-10-2012	87	ICC
P CURRAN James	St. Petersburg, FL (U.S.A.)	03-09-2012	91	SUE
P DE BOE Miel	Sint-Ulriks-Kapelle (Belgium)	10-12-2012	75	BEN
L DE MARCHI Giuseppe	Varazze (Italy)	03-12-2012	92	ICC
P DEVOS Jean	Parigi (France)	14-09-2012	80	FRB
P DÍAZ MORALES OROZCO José M.	Guadalajara (Mexico)	22-10-2012	58	MEG
P EDAMALAI Chandiy	Aluva, Kerala (India)	19-12-2012	88	INK
P EDWARDS BENTANCOUR Fernando	Lima (Perù)	24-09-2012	76	PER
P FABA Ireneusz	Kłobuck (Poland)	10-09-2012	82	PLO
E FORALOSSO Giuseppe	Marabá PA (Brazil)	22-08-2012	74	Bp
<i>Was for 8 years Bishop of Guiratinga (Brazil) and for 12 years of Marabá (Brazil)</i>				
L FRANCO JAÑEZ Saturnino	Valencia (Venezuela)	17-07-2012	84	VEN
P FRANK Miloslav	Prague (Czech Rep.)	30-10-2012	88	CEP
P FRANZETTI Gian Paolo	Varese (Italy)	07-08-2012	90	ILE
P GIANNATELLI Roberto	Roma (Italy)	12-10-2012	80	UPS
P GILHENEY John Aloysius	Frimley (Great Britain)	28-11-2012	85	GBR
P GONZÁLEZ GÓMEZ José	Sevilla (Spain)	13-08-2012	86	SSE
P GREGO Igino	Castelfranco Veneto (Italia)	04-12-2012	89	MOR
P HENDRICKX Frans	Tokyo (Japan)	10-08-2012	80	GIA
P HERMANS Jef	Heusden (Belgium)	09-10-2012	93	BEN
P HORVAT Stephan	Roma (Italy)	10-10-2012	99	ICC
P JAKUBIAK Andrzej	Lubin (Poland)	06-08-2012	71	PLO
P KARLEN Rafael Antonio	Mendoza (Argentina)	22-07-2012	78	ARN

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P KLENCK Edmund <i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>	Toulon (France)	25-10-2012	87	FRB
L KOLLER Adolf	Murnau (Germany)	11-10-2012	83	GER
P LE CARRÈRES Yves <i>Was Provincial for 7 years</i>	Angers (France)	30-07-2012	84	FRB
P LEYVA UREÑA José	Guadalajara (Mexico)	05-11-2012	70	MEG
P LIBRALON Luigi	Venezia-Mestre (Italy)	19-07-2012	77	INE
P LOUARN Pierre	St. Étienne de Maurs (France)	19-09-2012	94	FRB
P LUYTEN Jos	Oud-Heverlee (Belgium)	14-10-2012	88	BEN
P MACHADO João	Manique-Estoril (Portugal)	10-12-2012	87	POR
P MARCHESI Giuseppe	Arese (Italy)	20-08-2012	96	ILE
P MARIGO Giuseppe	Torino (Italy)	09-09-2012	84	ICP
P MARTÍNEZ CABRERA Víctor A.	El Puerto, La Vega (Dom. Rep.)	29-07-2012	29	ANT
P MARTINI Giovanni	Quito (Ecuador)	17-12-2012	85	ECU
P MAZUR Edward	Wrocław (Poland)	01-09-2012	85	PLO
P MEDINA DEL RIO Oscar Jesús	Cartagena (Colombia)	05-12-2012	48	COM
P MEIRELLES Aristeu	Belo Horizonte (Brazil)	29-09-2012	78	BBH
P MENEZES Ronald	Mumbai (India)	05-09-2012	56	INB
P MILLER Victor	Gijzegem (Belgium)	02-08-2012	86	BEN
P MIRÓ RICHART Luis	Alicante (Spain)	26-09-2012	74	SVa
P MISSAI Tomás	Vilanculos (Mozambique)	07-11-2012	37	MOZ
P MONDINI Giosuè	Arese (Italy)	07-11-2012	94	ILE
P MORENO ROSADO Eusebio	Arévalo (Spagna)	05-08-2012	91	SMA
S MUTAMBA Clement Mwaba	Lusaka (Zambia)	07-12-2012	30	ZMB
L OREGLIA Giovanni	Biella (Italy)	31-08-2012	86	ICP
P PAKKAM Arputharaj	Chennai (India)	29-11-2012	52	INM
P PÉREZ Amado	Barcelona (Spain)	10-09-2012	88	SBA
P PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ Andrés	San Juan, Alicante (Spain)	11-12-2012	91	SVa
P PÉREZ PÉREZ Horacio Salvador	Zamora, Michoacán (Mexico)	09-08-2012	72	MEG
P PHAN THANH THUYET Joseph	Kontum (Vietnam)	19-10-2012	65	VIE
L PHILOMINATHAN Amalraj	Chennai (India)	09-09-2012	67	INM
P PIGNATA Franco	Torino (Italy)	07-11-2012	92	ICP
P PINO ANDRADE Luis Enrique	Cuenca (Ecuador)	28-08-2012	76	ECU
L PIROLA Angelo	Venezia-Mestre (Italy)	16-09-2012	95	INE
P PULICKALAYIL Varghese	Kochi (India)	06-09-2012	83	INK
P ROCCARO Raimondo	Santiago del Cile	16-12-2012	76	CIL
P RODRÍGUEZ CONDE Inocencio	Madrid (Spain)	16-09-2012	102	SMA
P RODRÍGUEZ MONTES Manuel	Arévalo (Spain)	26-10-2012	79	SMA
P ROLHEISER Eugenio	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	23-11-2012	88	ARS
P RUFO Italo	Roma (Italy)	19-09-2012	82	ICC
P RUGGIERI Fausto	Roma (Italy)	15-08-2012	84	ICC
L SANTANA Joaquim	Belo Horizonte (Brazil)	26-09-2012	89	BBH
L SAUER Pedro	Bahía Blanca (Argentina)	02-11-2012	83	ARS
P SCHENCK Stephen	Port Chester, N.Y. (U.S.A.)	10-11-2012	60	SUE
E SONG SUI-WAN José <i>Was for 7 years Bishop Ordinary of São Gabriel da Cachoeira (Brazil) and for 3 years Bishop Emeritus</i>	Campinas, SP (Brazil)	15-11-2012	71	Bp

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P STRBA Stanislav	Caracas (Venezuela)	24-09-2012	81	VEN
P TARDIVO Giovanni	Soyapango (El Salvador)	21-10-2012	98	CAM
P TAVERAS JORGE Jerónimo	Santiago de los Caballeros (R.D.)	09-09-2012	76	ANT
P TEPLAN František	Turcianske Teplice (Slovakia)	10-11-2012	95	SLK
P TICÓ Juan	Río Grande (Argentina)	10-12-2012	93	ARS
L TRIMBOLI Francesco	Firenze (Italy)	26-07-2012	90	ICC
P VERHEYEN Sylvain	Groot-Bijgaarden (Belgium)	24-08-2012	81	BEN
P VERME RAFFO José	Montevideo (Uruguay)	03-09-2012	79	URU
P VISENTINI Amilcare	Montevideo (Uruguay)	20-11-2012	71	URU
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>				
P VOLANT André	Reims (France)	11-12-2012	82	FRB
P WIECZOREK Grzegorz	Seon (Germany)	22-09-2012	47	PLS
P ZACCARIA Antonio	Salerno (Italy)	27-11-2012	91	IME