



THE CORD

"a three-ply cord is hard to break"

Don Bosco



Edition 1 Volume 1
January 2020

"Feeble forces that unite become strong. A single strand may be easily broken, but a three-ply cord is hard to break."

*Don Bosco's Rule, Article 1; Ecclesiastes 4:1

From our Coordinator

My warmest greetings to all as we celebrate the feast of our beloved founder, St. John Bosco! I also pray that this newsletter will help to animate our communion and collaboration in service of St. John Bosco's mission to youth, especially those most in need.

On Saturday, January 11th, over 350 people gathered for the Salesian Family Day in San Antonio, Texas. This day included the induction of eight new Cooperators who were formed by the faithful work of Sr. Guadalupe Medina, the Salesian Family Delegate, and Kristie Garza, Provincial Councilor for Formation. Fr. Ted Montemayor presided at the celebration of Eucharist and received their Cooperator Promise, on behalf of the Rector

Major. Their Cooperator vocations developed through active involvement and accompaniment at Cristo Rey Church, Austin, Mary Help of Christians School, Laredo, and San Luis Rey Church, Laredo. Those inducted for Cristo Rey Center are Teresa Hernandez, Samantha Hernandez, Joseph Valdez, and Adan Lopez. The Laredo Center is also now consolidated with the addition of Anita Averill, Elizabeth Carrillo, Gracie Carrillo, and Flor Ponce.

On Monday, January 13, Sr. Guadalupe Medina, Sr. Irma Bijarro, and I enjoyed lunch in Austin with Agueda Hernandez, the Coordinator for the Center, and Sr. Martina Ponce, the new Delegate. In the evening we had a wonderful encounter with other members of the Center and clarified the importance of wholehearted participation in their meetings and activities. We also affirmed both new and returning leadership for the Local Council.

This induction and visit were the first of the year, but not the last. Being and working together is the best way to deepen our Salesian spirit and commitment to our mission. I look forward to future opportunities to meet all the members of our Local Centers and celebrate our Salesian Cooperator vocation.

Yours in Don Bosco,

Judy Alvarez



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Of Special Interest - What is the Meaning of the Title of the Newsletter?

There are at least three ways we can think about the newsletter's title: **THE CORD**. The three pillars that Don Bosco wants us to hold on to are the *Eucharist, the Blessed Mother and the Pope* (the three whites, as they are named). These pillars anchor our lives to Christ in

all seasons and circumstances of life. The second one is the Preventive System: *Reason, Religion and Loving-kindness* - our particular way to love the young and each other. In addition, the third, Don Bosco wanted his children to be aware of the strong cord that unites

a family, which can be a life savior for the person as a whole. Hence, we collaborate with all branches of the Salesian Family for the salvation of the young and the poor. Together as a family, we help the young and each other find peace and happiness.

28th General Chapter by Maria Castillon



CG28

From February 16 to April 4, 2020, the General Chapter of the SDB's will meet in Turin-Valdocco to discuss the question

"Which Salesians for today's young people?"

Links of interest

[ASC - Consiglio Mondiale](#)

[ASC - SUO Forms](#)

[In Touch](#)

[ANS](#)

[Salesian Sisters West](#)

[Strenna 2020](#)

February 2020 bring us to one of the great events with regard to the Salesian Family, CG28 – February 16 to April 4. We should not only need to pray for the 240 Capitulars that will be representing the Salesian Family, but we also need to be attentive to the theme and how it will affect us and how are we going to put it into practice.

Paraphrasing the "tag," I think this is what the question is... *"What kind of Salesians do we need to be for the youth of today?"* During translations, we lose much of the meaning. In Italian it reads: "Quali salesiani per i giovani di oggi?" (Quali = QUALE --- what, que, quel est, qui... and so on). Why this, because one of the main themes is the ***"Profile"*** of a Salesian.

So let us be with them and try to internalize what we need to do to be with the youth of today.

The three fundamental themes of GC28 are:

- Priority of the mission with young people;
- Profile of today's Salesian;
- Mission shared between Salesians and lay people.

For each thematic area, the Work Tool (pic at left) proposes a three-stage discernment itinerary,

according to the scheme already used at the last Synods of Bishops and promoted by Pope Francis to: ***recognize, interpret and choose.***

Let us offer our prayers and sacrifices for this special event in the life of the Salesian Family.

Prayer for the General Chapter

(First Prayer – Vespers)

O Father, through the action of the Spirit you dwell and work in the hearts of the young to lead them to beauty, goodness and truth: grant that following in the footsteps of our Father, Don Bosco, we may welcome the dreams of the young people of our time and accompany them with wisdom and enthusiasm.



Province Animation: Local Center Reports by Judy Alvarez



The Provincial Council wants a strong working relationship with each Local Center. To do so we need to find ways to be present to each other. The goal of the Provincial Coordinator is to be in regular contact with Local Coordinators and to visit each Center at least once each year. Other councilors will also be in touch by phone and email, and when possible in person. We ask each Local Council to also be present for a moment of dialogue during Provincial

Council meeting. This meeting can be done in person or by teleconference. At that time, we will discuss the input and concerns that Centers provide through a Local Center Report. You will find the Local Center Report form in the ASC Document link in the newsletter side bar. The form is not complicated; it will help us prepare and focus our conversation with each other. Below is the proposed monthly schedule for Local Center Reports.

DATE	CENTER	ORIGIN
January 19	St. Joseph's Center	Rosemead
February 9	St. John Bosco School	San Antonio
March 8	Salesian College Preparatory	Richmond (TBC)
April	St. Mary's Church	Los Angeles
May 1-3	Province 'Encuentro' (All Centers to be represented)	Southern California
June	St. Bridget's Chinese Catholic Community	Los Angeles
July	Mary Help of Christians School	Laredo
August	St. Dominic Savio Church Spanish	Bellflower
September	Ss. Peter and Paul Church	San Francisco
October	Cristo Rey Church	Austin
November	St. Dominic Savio Church English	Bellflower

The Strenna by the Rector Major, Don Angel Fernandez Artime, SDB is a gift to the Salesian Family every year. "We received it from Don Bosco himself: to help our boys, girls and young people to be 'good Christians and upright citizens'. We need to deepen our identity as evangelizers and educators of the faith even more." Please watch the video, read, and study more on:

[Strenna 2020](#)

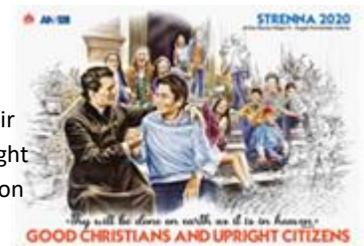
Strenna 2020: Let's live it! By Kristie Garza and Mikey Vera

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven" (Mt. 6:10)

"GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS"

Don Bosco, upon seeing the boys in prison, breaks down in tears much like a parent would for their child. His love for the youth and his deep desire for their happiness captures his heart. This year's strenna is "Good Christians and Upright Citizens". The reflection is on "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". Don Bosco realized that education is essential in bringing heaven to the youth on earth.

In today's world, the youth are longing to be good citizens - not just citizens of their localities but also citizens of the world. How can we, as Cooperators filled with the Salesian charism, accompany the youth? We have so much to share with them, but it may be that the most important thing we have to share is an open ear. Youth yearn to be genuinely listened to, to have their opinions and thoughts heard. Are there youths in your daily encounters that could need a trusting ear to turn to?



Announcements

Save the Date:

"According to our Cooperator Regulations, Article 28, there is an annual Congress including Local Councilors, Delegates and the Provincial Council for the sake of planning, verification and elections every third year. In our Province we have only meet every third year for elections. We would like to meet every year also for planning and verification. Please save the weekend of May 1-3 for a

Province 'Encuentro' (as named by the Interamerica Region) which will occur this year in Southern California. *More details will follow soon!*

Announcement

Look also in your inbox for "e-News" from the Salesian Sisters – West!

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