We, the Salesian Sisters, the Salesian Priests of Don Bosco (SDB’s), and all the Salesian Family (Cooperators, Past Pupils, Devotees of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), and Benefactors), inherited a great love for the Pope, the Vicar of Christ on earth. Our founders, St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello, modeled for us the unconditional love, respect, support, and adhesion to the Sovereign Pontiff.

We lived in respectful and prayerful silence February 28th when our beloved Pope, Benedict XVI, in all humility went into retirement. The world of the Catholics was in suffering and expectation.

March 13, 2013 the College of Cardinals elected as pope Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio who chose to be called Pope Francis.

Together with the billions of Catholics throughout the world we thank God for the gift of Pope Francis. We are edified at Pope Francis’ simplicity, humility, poverty and love of humankind. We pledge our love and allegiance to him. Long live the Pope!

By Sr. M. Olga Muñoz, FMA

Sr. Jeanette Palasota, FMA, anxiously waits as Pope Francis makes his way past her and the thousands of other onlookers.
"I am simply a pilgrim beginning the last leg of his pilgrimage on this Earth. But I would still... with my heart, with my love, with my prayers, with my reflection, and with all my inner strength, like to work for the common good and the good of the church and of humanity. I feel very supported by your sympathy. Let us go forward with the Lord for the good of the church and the world."

Thank you to all of you.

Pope Benedict XVI's farewell message
**Chelsea Shoemaker** is a Religion & English major from St. Petersburg, Florida. After serving as a youth minister for two years, she felt a calling towards VIDES—“It had continually been on my heart the past few years...”. Chelsea will be serving at St. John Bosco in San Antonio, Texas. She will be substitute teaching for the middle school English classes, leading the drama club, retreats for the 5-8th grade, and assisting with the retreats for the 2-4th grade, liturgy preparations, and weekend faith formation programs at the parishes.

**Laura Meyer** is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame with degrees in Arabic studies and International Peace studies. Prior to VIDES, Laura’s work in Washington DC focused on Domestic Policy. Her mission will include three months at the VIDES Human Rights Office in Geneva, Switzerland and then three months in Juba, South Sudan. Upon completion, she plans to pursue a Master’s degree in public policy.

**Russell Harpring** is returning for a second VIDES mission. His previous mission in the Dominican Republic lasted from January-October, 2012. “The experiences at Formation Service Camp have rekindled my flame and have allowed me to prepare for my future missions: at the Provincial House in San Antonio, the UN meeting in New York, and the UN VIDES Office in Switzerland. I am so very thankful to God for these opportunities as well as the people He has placed in my life that have made them possible.”

**Christy Howard** is a recent graduate from the University of Dallas, where she studied psychology with hopes of a future in human resources at a ski resort. “Over the past year, God has made it very clear to me on three separate occasions that He wants me to do mission work before I begin searching for a different career.”

Christy’s mission will take her to the Canary Islands. “I’ll be there for six months before returning to Utah, but who knows how this life-changing experience will impact the direction of my journey towards God.”

**Rachel Moto** is a Kindergarten teacher from Birmingham, Alabama. She will travel to South Africa for her mission. “I am ever grateful for my time at camp and for all those I have encountered! In the words of my five year olds, “I love Jesus. He brings me good things!”

**Maria Carmen Castillon** is a VIDES Missioner. She has served in Haiti and presented the Educational needs of children in situations of displacement and disasters at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland. “Sharing my experiences and helping during the VIDES formation and service camps is always a reward. I can clearly see how God is the something else and the thing that young people want.”

Contact Sr. Gloria Mar, FMA for more info:
6019 Buena Vista St.
San Antonio, TX 78237
(210) 373-9532 or visit the website, at www.vides.us
As the entire Salesian Family was celebrating the Feast of Saints Bishop Louis Versiglia and Fr. Callistus Caravario on February 25th, the Cooperators of USA West were also marking an important milestone. The first ever Provincial Cooperator Congress was taking place at St. Joseph’s Retreat Center in Rosemead. Representatives from each of the centers in Austin, Richmond, San Antonio, St. Bridget’s, St. Dominic Savio and St. Joseph’s were all in attendance.

During his keynote address, Fr. Tim Ploch, Provincial, reminded those in attendance that in Don Bosco’s vast vision in working for the salvation of souls and after founding the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (with the collaboration of St. Mary Mazzarello), he also founded the Cooperators. For those of you who may not know, the Cooperators are lay men and women who live the same Salesian Spirituality as the SDB and FMA, but do so outside of community. For that very reason, the role of the Cooperator is a very important one. Since the Cooperators live “in the world,” they have the potential to reach more of society than the priests, brothers and sisters can. The daily activities of each Cooperator must first and foremost have the young, the poor and the disadvantaged in mind whether in ministry, place of employment, marriage, politics, social justice, etc.

In calling into question the work of the Cooperators, Fr. Tim stated, “when the Rector Major challenged the Cooperators to ‘leave the sacristy,’ he didn’t mean to forget about the Church but to do more to further Don Bosco’s mission throughout all of society. The Cooperator’s role is not to cooperate with the works of the SDB or FMA, but to cooperate with the work of God. How many works throughout the province have the Cooperators opened and/or
sustained where the SDB or FMA are not present?”

Calling to mind that being a Cooperator is a vocation, so much more than joining a club or parish ministry, Fr. Tim reminded those in attendance that the Project of Apostolic Life (PAL) much like the Constitutions of the SDB and FMA was written as a “path to holiness” and is “not the Cooperator’s own personal project but God’s plan for each Cooperator.”

Long forgotten should be the days when the Cooperator was looked at as solely a benefactor. The challenge now is to not only do more, but to BE more. Don Bosco himself stated that “the Preventive System is YOU.” In other words, the success of our works depends on our call to holiness. “If our works,” says Fr. Tim, “are not holy, then we need to look at our own holiness. How is our relationship with God and with others? How do we relate to the young? If the needs, the rights and the desires of the young people do not move our hearts, then we are not Salesian.”

After Fr. Tim’s incisive keynote, several other topics were discussed throughout the course of the day, such as the successes and struggles encountered by each center, initial and on-going formation, opening new centers, the role of the SDB or FMA delegate, etc. While many issues were covered, the main goal for the day was to elect a new Provincial Council. The majority of the current council members have already served two consecutive three year terms and will need to be replaced by new members. The new members elected were Deacon Willy Arban - St. Dominic Savio, Louis Kun - St. Joseph’s, Elena La Rosa - St. Dominic Savio, Henry Moe - Richmond, Minda Pamuspusan - St. Dominic Savio, David Reyes - Austin, Donald Varella - San Antonio and Mikey Vera - St. Dominic Savio. Elizabeth Gamarra will continue her role on the Provincial Council as Delegate to the Inter-America Regional Council.

Lastly, during the closing Eucharistic Celebration, five new Cooperators were inducted. Those inducted were Michael Alvarez - St. Dominic Savio, Judy Wilbur Alvarez - St. Dominic Savio, Maria Castillon - San Antonio and Alice Milton - St. Joseph’s.

Let us continue to pray for the new members of the Provincial Council, those newly inducted and for more Cooperator vocations. To learn more about the Cooperators, please visit www.donboscowest.org/vocation/cooperators.

By Benito Guerrero, Jr.
57th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

- 7 in 10 women in the world report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime
- Worldwide, up to 50% of sexual assaults are committed against girls under the age of 16
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides married before the age of 18
- Women and girls make up the 80% of the estimated 800,000 people trafficked across national borders annually, with 79% of them trafficked for sexual exploitation
- More than 100 million girls are ‘missing’ due to prenatal sex selection

Source: UN Women “A Promise is a Promise” 2013

The United Nations (UN) has long been a champion in promoting actions to end violence against women and girls. However, despite the fact that almost all member states have very well developed legislation that supports this topic, the lack of enforcement and political will is the main gap that has so many women and girls still suffering atrocities around the world. Some reasons behind this phenomenon include:

- Traditional and cultural practices that do not stand nor respect the rights of women and girls
- Lack of training for security forces in assisting victims of violence and enforcing legal framework
- Weak justice systems
- Lack of prevention strategies involving men and boys
- Support services working isolated one from the other
- Internal conflict or post-conflict reconstruction

VIDES and the Institute of Maria Auxiliadora (IIMA) are International NGOs with UN consultative status. The Sisters from India made a contribution to the conversations with a presentation about their home in Bangalore for children survivors of violence. Sr. Jacintha spoke of efforts to partner with police and community men and women to strengthen the judicial processes in processing children and juvenile cases. Through their work, they have been able to shelter orphans and educate the police on proper treatment of children and juveniles after they are taken off the streets. A second presentation was given by Shanthi, who is a 20 year old girl that fled from domestic violence occurring in her home at age 11 with her brothers and sisters. She was taken in by the Sisters in the Naravajeena home, where she could finish her studies, participate in youth activities, and rehabilitate. The audience was moved and delighted with Shanthi’s inspiring story from her childhood and how it was transformed by the Sisters’ care.

By Russell Harpring – VIDES Volunteer
During this Lent, the 5th, 6th, and 7th grade classes of St. John Bosco participated in retreats held at the Provincial House. These retreats were coordinated by the school’s religion teacher, Alicia Boone, Sr.

Sydney Moss, one of our novices, and Chelsea Shoemaker, a VIDES volunteer who is currently serving at St. John Bosco. Together, the team planned days for each of the classes filled with teambuilding exercises, interactive games, and times of contemplation and spirituality. The 5th grade retreat focused on Prayer Life and communication. The students learned how to build basic communication with one another and with God. The students also practiced meditative prayer as a way to learn how to deepen their prayer lives. The 6th grade students focused on community building. They talked about how to be an active, joyful member in the communities of their family, school, neighborhood, and world. The 6th grade students also wrote letters of solidarity to Salesian communities in the Middle East to connect their thoughts and prayers with those people in a tangible way. The 7th grade students learned about discipleship. These students learned how each one of them has unique gifts that complement one another and allows them to serve in different ways. The retreat ended with a prayer time of anointing where the students were challenged to be sent forth as leaders. A HUGE thank you goes out to all of the Sisters of the Provincial House who were so gracious to let the students of St. John Bosco use their home for the retreat. The students loved being on retreat at the Provincial House and having a relaxing, spiritual day away from school.

By Chelsea Shoemaker—VIDES Volunteer and currently serving at St. John Bosco School in San Antonio, Texas
Our Blessed Mother Arrives!


Mary is carefully lifted and guided to her home in our “Path to Mary Shrine”.

Finally, the crate is opened as Sr. Rosalba Garcia takes a quick peek! She’s beautiful!

Bricks are still available for purchase for our “Path to Mary Shrine”. If you would like to help complete the Shrine by personalizing a brick of your own, please call Sr. Barbara Campbell at (210) 432-0089, Ext. 233. Bricks are only $200 and can be personalized with up to 6 brief lines of text.

Mary is proudly placed and secured in her rightful place as Sr. Maria Becerril and Sr. Vittoria Graziani help her feel at home.

Sr. Deborah Walker watches as Sr. Vittoria Graziani adoringly gazes up to Mary’s angelic features.
Help a child go to Salesian Summer Camp!

Summer is just around the corner, make a difference in the life of a child

Why is Salesian Summer Camp important?

These camps provide children with an opportunity for human, cultural, and religious formation without regard to race, color, or creed. The individual attention given to each camper helps nurture Christian values in love and friendship, thus forming committed Christians and honest citizens.

The majority of the camps are open to boys and girls, and children from ages 5-14 are accepted for enrollment. Campers are typically divided into small groups by age and directed and supervised by the Salesian Sisters and young adult counselors who enjoy serving youth through these summer activities.

How can you help?

There are many children in need of a sponsorship for the opportunity to attend Salesian Summer Camp at any one of our six camp locations. Weekly camper costs range from $50.00-$150.00 per child. Any amount you would like to donate towards sponsoring a child for summer camp would be greatly appreciated! For questions about sponsoring a child, please call Esmeralda Castillo, Director of Development at (210) 431-4999 or email at sswdevelopment@sbcglobal.net.

Please send your sponsorship & make checks payable to:
Salesian Sisters Development Office
6019 Buena Vista Street
San Antonio, TX  78237

*Please indicate which camp location you would like your sponsorship to be applied towards.

1. **Corralitos, California**- Camp Auxilium, Girls Resident Day Camp
   Contact: Sr. Queyen Pham (831) 227-7143

2. **Watsonville, California**- Campo Maria Auxiliadora
   Contact: Sr. Silvia Castillo (831) 277-4563

3. **Colorado Springs, Colorado**- Cheyenne Wells, Elizabeth/Kiowa, Calhan-Vacation Bible School, Contact: Sr. Mary Link (719) 632-4463

4. **Westwego, Louisiana**- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Day Camp
   Contact: Sr. Claudette Germain (504) 341-9505

5. **Laredo, Texas**- Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico-Oratorio Salesiano Don Bosco, Contact: Sr. Carmen Palacios (956) 334-2194

6. **San Antonio, Texas**- St. John Bosco Summer Day Camp
   Contact: Sr. Rosann Ruiz (210) 432-8011

Joyful summer camp memories
2013 Jubilee Celebration

65 Years
Sr. Hope Rodriguez, FMA
Sr. Jane Sanchez, FMA

60 Years
Sr. Theresa Murillo, FMA

50 Years
Sr. Theresa Sironi, FMA
Sr. Lourdes Treviño, FMA

40 Years
Sr. Carmen Botello, FMA
Sr. Rosann Ruiz, FMA

August 10, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Lake University
Sacred Heart Conventual Chapel
411 S.W. 24th Street
San Antonio, TX 78207

Luncheon immediately following the Mass at 12 noon, at St. John Bosco School in the Laura Vicuña Center, 5630 West Commerce Street, San Antonio, TX 78237

RSVP Requested (210) 432-1919

Please join us for this joyous occasion honoring these Sisters who have given of themselves for the good of youth for so many years. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to do something special, consider making a tribute donation in their honor. You may send your tribute to:

Development Office
2013 Jubilee
6019 Buena Vista Street
San Antonio, TX 78237

Thank you to Jim Morris, owner of JCL Barricade Company in Los Angeles, California, for generously donating 2 banners to help us advertise this year’s golf tournament. We are very grateful for his support, and pray that through these banners, we are able to gain more community awareness, ultimately helping us raise more funds for our Children’s Education Fund. All of the proceeds from the tournament go towards providing scholarships and tuition subsidy for students (Grades 1 - 8) attending any of our schools, including St. Dominic Savio School in Bellflower, CA, Mary Help of Christians School in Laredo, TX, St. Mary’s School in East LA, CA, St. James and St. John Bosco Catholic Schools in San Antonio, TX, SS. Peter & Paul School in San Francisco, CA, Salesian Elementary & Jr. High School in Corralitos, CA, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Westwego, LA.

The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco Present the
Children’s Education Golf Tournament
October 7, 2013
Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club
Benefitting the Children’s Education Fund
Please contact us for player & sponsorship opportunities (210) 431-4990
sswddevelopment@sbglobal.net
The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco
present the
2013 Children’s Education Golf Tournament

Save the Date!
October 7, 2013

Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club
7900 Fair Oaks Parkway
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015

100% of all proceeds benefit the Children’s Education Fund

Golf Tournament Emcee
Yami Virgin-Anchor/Reporter
KABB FOX 29

Yami was born in Panama City, Panama, and proud to call herself an army brat, which more than anything built the foundation for that need to find out more about the people around her. It also taught her how to accept others even if they weren’t like her. Although not born in Texas, she considers herself a transplanted Texan and most importantly, a San Antonian.

Yami says she loves helping our community of Sisters and the schools and children that will benefit from these scholarships. The Sisters are happy to have Yami join us as our Emcee at this year’s golf tournament.

Sign up to play! EARLY BIRD SPECIAL available!

Calling all golfers! Sign up for our EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Please register and pay by July 1, 2013 to receive our discounted rate of $130 per player or $520 for a foursome (special pricing not available for Junior Teams). Pricing after July 1, 2013 is $150 per player or $600 for a foursome. Each golfer will receive: lunch, dinner, green fees, and a goodie bag. Prizes awarded at Awards Dinner.

Don’t play golf? You can still help!

Even if you don’t play golf, we still need your help! We are looking for volunteers to help at the golf tournament, donated items and baskets for our silent auction, and sponsors!

Please contact Esmeralda Castillo, Director of Development at (210) 431-4999 or email, sswdevelopment@sbcglobal.net to register to play or for more information on sponsorship and volunteer opportunities!
Congratulations to the Most Reverend Oscar Cantú, S.T.D., for his newly appointed position as the second Bishop of the Diocese of Las Cruces in New Mexico! His installation mass took place on February 28, 2013. He will be missed as he served as our auxiliary Bishop here in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and became very near and dear to our Sisters and the community at large.

(Pictures from www.dioceseoflascruces.org)