On August 7, 2011, the Leadership of Mary Immaculate Province representing all our communities together with the local communities of San Antonio gathered for the installation of Sr. Patricia King as the fifth Provincial of Mary Immaculate Province. We welcomed her warmly with an evening prayer for the occasion and listened attentively to the words of St. Mary Mazzarello “Be courageous and love each other”.

Sr. Patricia is esteemed for her kindness and genuine interest in the good of each and every Sister. Her manner is calm and gentle and she is perceptive and insightful. The quote from our foundress, Mother Mazzarello, that was used as a focal point for Sr. Patricia’s installation was very appropriate and we have taken it to heart. Yes, let us move ahead with courage knowing that Jesus and Mary will help us to keep united and to love each other as we continue to minister to the young and to their families.

We thank Sr. Patricia for her courageous “yes” to the mission that has been entrusted to her and we promise her our loyal and prayerful support. ~Sr. Sandra Neaves, FMA (Former Provincial)
The Provincial House Extension Project began on August 19, 2011, with a simple prayer service directed by Sr. Barbara Campbell, Province Treasurer, and a symbolic ground breaking by Sr. Patricia King, Provincial, Sr. Sandra Neaves, former Provincial, Sr. Theresa Sironi, Vicar, and Sr. Cecilia Besi, First Provincial of our Province. These four Sisters were joined by Mr. Jack Duffin, architect and Mr. Curtis Stoddard, contractor. Representatives of the many professionals involved in the project were present. Several Sisters of nearby communities also attended, but the greatest number of Sisters were those of the Provincial House itself. This momentous event was for us both a step forward and a challenge. Like Don Bosco, our founder, we are moving ahead trusting that Divine Providence, through the goodness and generosity of our benefactors, will provide the funds for this needed addition. Our elder Sisters, together with all our extended Salesian family, are praying for and are creatively seeking financial assistance.

The words spoken on August 19th were few but they served to underline the firm foundation of the project. Mr. Jack Duffin was justly praised for his wise foresight in designing the building we presently occupy which has had no major maintenance needs for nearly 20 years. Sr. Cecilia Besi, Provincial during the first construction, was also commended for her vision and daring in building the Provincial House when others might have held back. As Sr. Patricia King witnessed the opening event of the project she, in the name of all the Sisters, thanked Sr. Sandra Neaves, outgoing Provincial, for her hard work in preparing the groundwork for the extension and for her unflinching belief that this work begun with the blessing of God will come to a fruitful completion. Thank you for sharing the dream, for being an integral part of its progress, and ultimately for rejoicing with us in its realization.
## The Work of Their Hands, the Gifts of Your Heart

We thank all our supporters!

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*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of names & donations referred to on this list. If you note any errors, please contact Heather Walter at dev-walter@sbcglobal.net. *Donors as of July 27, 2011.
PERPETUAL VOWS—August 5, 2011

“I welcome you forever into our family in joyful communion and sisterly sharing of all that we are and all that we have.” With these words, Sr. Sandra Neaves, Provincial of Mary Immaculate Province, as delegate of our Mother General, Mother Yvonne Reungoat, received the perpetual profession of Sr. ThienAnh Khong, Sr. Lourdes Lujano, and Sr. Jeanette Palasota as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. The Most Reverend Oscar Cantú, Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, was the main celebrant of the solemn Liturgy and ten priests, concelebrated with him. Salesian Sisters, family and friends filled the beautiful Sacred Heart Chapel of Our Lady of the Lake University to join our Sisters in prayerful gratitude to God. Sr. ThienAnh’s nine brothers sang an offertory song in Vietnamese and represented their elderly and infirm parents who could not be present. Sr. Lourdes’ mother, many siblings, relatives and friends came for the event as did Sr. Jeanette’s parents, sisters, family and friends. With a firm voice of conviction, the three Sisters publicly made their vows forever. After signing their name in the Profession Register, each Sister placed her hands resolutely on the altar saying, “Receive me, O Lord according to your words, for in you I shall find life.” In the “yes” of our newly perpetually professed Sisters to the Lord’s call may we all be blessed to live our own commitment with loving fidelity.
JUBILEE— August 7, 2011

Sunday afternoon a Mass at St. John Bosco School’s gym celebrated the joy of years spent in the service of the Lord by our 11 Jubilarians: Sr. Cesira Pierotti (70 yr), Sr. Mary Lou de la Vega (65 yr), Sr. Refugio Gallardo, Sr. Trinidad Reyes, and Sr. Victoria Trejo (60 yr), Sr. Diana Filipas, Sr. Margarita Hinojosa, and Sr. Gloria Mar (50 yr), Sr. Marie Gannon, Sr. Isabel Garza, and Sr. Josephine Ochoa (40 yr).

The Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Joe Corpora, CSC and Rev. Fr. John Restrepo, OP (both Salesian past-pupils) with Most Rev. Bishop John Yanta present. Relatives, past pupils and friends from near and far joined in the celebration. It was a day of joy and gratitude to God for His faithful love. We thank God for his many blessings to our Jubilarians and we thank them for their years of faithful service. May they have many more fruitful years as Salesian Sisters!

~Sr. Olga Munoz, FMA
Thanks to the efforts of Sr. Rita Bailey, FMA, and Mrs. Barbara Murphy and her committee, a memorable school reunion took place on April 4, 2011 in Corpus Christi Parish Hall. Although reunions have taken place in previous years, this one was of unparalleled proportions. The hall filled throughout the afternoon totaling over 250 alumni. A great spirit of joy prevailed throughout the room with excited greetings, reconnections, and meeting new friends among other class alumni. One could tangibly feel that they knew they had truly “come home.”

They came on wheelchairs, on the arm of a loved one, spouses together, longtime school friends, and then there were those who came with their now adult children who had also graduated from Corpus Christi. The McLaughlin family brought their dad. His five now adult children graduated from the school, four of whom were present. The fifth, Dan, a graduate of ’72, passed away two years ago on this date. The family relived memories by coming to Corpus Christi to recall those happy and carefree childhood days.

Jack Curtin ,’46, was in “front center” in his Giants baseball cap and jacket visiting with longtime friends who graduated in the ‘40’s. Jack, retired from the now defunct Southern Pacific Railroad for 35 years, now works for the Giants baseball club stadium. Bill Farac, whose son was an alumnus, also attended. Throughout the room he was surrounded and having his hand shaken by many who knew him as “Coach.” Bill, who worked as a mounted policeman in the city, had coached every sport for many years to the school’s past graduates, introducing soccer to them. He put on a big school play with the children during his time there, and then, with the assistance of the school’s Men’s Club, put in much needed and appreciated basketball courts.

Corpus Christi School opened its doors in 1928 under the direction of the Church’s Pastor, Fr. P.J. Diamond. The first class of 17 students graduated in 1931. In 1933 the school was entrusted to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. After 41 years of dedicated administration and teaching the children of Corpus Christi, the Sisters were unable to continue staffing the school and at this time the Salesian priests staffing the parish turned to the Salesian Sisters to continue this strong tradition of education. Thus, the Salesian Sisters began staffing the school from 1974 to 2011. Sr. Margaret Eilerman, of the Sisters of St. Joseph (then known as Sr. St. George), flew in for the occasion. She taught at Corpus Christi from 1957-1960 and was principal from 1960-1963. Another student of Corpus Christi and Sister of St. Joseph present was Sr. Mary Bernadette McNulty, Class of 1955.

The oldest graduate present was John Consigliere, a member of the Class of 1933 and parishioner of Corpus Christi Church. His children also attended the school, and his daughter Catherine and niece Barbara attended the reunion.

Some groups, such as the class of ’46 and ’74, get together regularly to renew old memories and longtime friendships. The school is closing its doors after 83 years, but as the old song “Ramona” so poignantly reminds us, “… memories of you will live on.” ~Sr. Mary Mullaly, FMA
“One who lights a lamp does not put it in the cellar or under a bushel basket, but rather on a lamp stand, so that they who come in may see the light.” ~ (Luke 11: 33)

Question: What makes the Catholic schools run by the Salesian Sisters in the Province of Mary Immaculate so special?

Answer: Of course, it’s the Salesian spirit and the ongoing faculty and staff study days to rediscover Don Bosco and better appreciate his Preventive System of Education. The outcome is a custom-made Action Plan by each school to be implemented throughout the coming school year.

This past school year, 2010-2011, each school in the Province participated in a full day’s work-study day, as they did the previous year, 2009-2010. Each work-study day consists of four parts: a) spiritual formation on a pre-selected aspect of Don Bosco’s Preventive System, b) reflection on the topic’s theme through personal and group sharing on a pre-selected aspect of Don Bosco’s system, c) group discussion and creation of a plan based on the objectives presented, and d) the finalization and group approval of a final action plan, which also consists of points as to how it will be implemented and eventually evaluated.

In an intentional effort to deepen our understanding of the spirituality of the Preventive System, the 2009-2010 theme was, “Spirituality and Our Call to Holiness through the Preventive System,” and the 2010-2011 theme was: Meeting Christ on the Journey, a Call of Love and Response to a Vocation to Love.” Inherent to the study day are its two objectives which this year were based on “Salesian Environment,” and “Salesian Communication.” One of the talking points for each of the two objectives was:

“A Salesian Environment is characterized in the Preventive System by goodness that nurtures relationships.”

“Salesian Communication takes place best through relationships that are stimulating, reasonable, and spoken in a respectful manner.”

These points were taken from a book published by the Salesian Sisters, guidelines for our educational mission, “That They May Have Life”. The day’s results? We PRAY, PLAY, PLAN, EAT and learn to greatly increase in LOVE for God, one another, and the children entrusted to us!
Dearest Corpus Christi School Family,

There is much to say as we come to the close of our 2010-2011 school year and sadly, to the closure of our school. However, to keep our courage and our CCS spirit up, we can always remember that: Corpus Christi means the Body of Christ. We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ’s Body, the Church. As a member of this Body, we need each other. Do you recall the song of the Body of Christ that we learned? Spiritually, we will always be united and prayer will be the best means of doing this.

I pray that each and every one of you will do and be your best, always making good choices to become more like Jesus and turning to Mary, Our Mother in all your needs or difficulties.

Your treasure chest which is kept in your heart will always contain your dearest memories of Corpus Christi School. Open it often and recall the happy wonderful times you had... School and Sunday Masses, Prayer Services, Passion Plays, Don Bosco’s Visit, Christmas Plays, Mary’s Crowning, the Buddy System, Carnival Days, Don Bosco’s Olympic Day, PTO & School Hot Lunches, Halloween and Valentine Events, International Cultural Night, Volleyball Games Students vs. Teachers, Ice Cream Treats, Recesses even when it was cold & windy, Corpus Christi News on Fridays, Good Mornings, Science Fairs, all the Songs learned for so many occasions, Contests, Mary’s Month and Field Trips. There are also many other moments that you will recall. There were times and places where you planted Salesian seeds and made them grow. Now, these seeds must be shared with others. These are the seeds of holiness and what makes you Salesian...Love of the Eucharist, Love of Mary, loyalty to the Pope, cheerfulness, loving kindness, family spirit, and service to others. Just look into your treasure chest, and you will have a smiling face and a very happy heart.

The light that must now come from you is the Light of Jesus in His Word. He taught us how to Love and this is what you have learned while you have been here at CCS. As a matter of fact, this is the greatest gift at CCS.

When you open your treasure chest, the light that will shine from there is the Light of Jesus that is in you. Don’t let it fade but let it shine brightly for yourself, your family, and as you proudly walk into your new schools.

I thank you for the beautiful year I spent here at CCS. I wished it had been for more years. However, Jesus walks ahead of us saying to us, “Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.” I will take each one of you in my treasure chest and ask God to bless and protect you and your families in a special way.

Dearest Students, Faculty, Staff, and Parents, let us all Move Forward with Pride because Corpus Christi School has prepared us to make a difference in the world.

Lovingly,
Sr. Cecilia Henry, FMA
Principal

“CCS to me is like a magical place. When I first entered CCS, I was scared. But after meeting the other students, teachers and the Sisters, I was overjoyed. The teachers are hard working and understanding when I met them. Every second at CCS is worth being here. These seconds will never be replaced.”
-Kealoha-Lanie James – 5th grade

“My best memory in CCS is winning back to back championship games in 6th and 7th grade.”
-Glenn De Guzman, 7th grade

“I have many memories at Corpus Christi. I will cherish all of them, but my best memory will always be meeting these people at Corpus Christi. We created a great connection here at Corpus Christi. We all became a family.”
-Abigail Vergara, 7th grade
Abbey Youth Fest? What's that? This thought swirled with eager anticipation in the minds and hearts of Sr. Thuy Huong Nguyen and Sr. Theresa Jones as they headed in a pickup truck, packed with Salesian literature, to St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, Louisiana on March 26, 2011. “This is what World Youth Day must be like” we thought, as we arrived at an enormous grassy field studded with 3,500 youth from ten different states. No sooner had we set foot on the premise when smiling teens approached and helped set up our booth.

Then it all began. The Holy Spirit completely took over with His most wonderful plan. We recall a constant whirlwind of high schoolers, college goers, and youth ministers approaching us, athirst with knowledge of our Salesian family. Blessed Laura Vicuna became a central focus, as so many not only related to her story, but spread the word for others to come and meet this modern inspiration to youth. Even a publishing company expressed interest in knowing her story. Prayer intention hearts surfaced as another popular attraction as we assured all that our community would bring to prayer daily the intentions each so intently wrote. We delighted in repeating with pride and reverence the stories of our blessed Salesian heritage.

Immediately we sensed the uniqueness of our target audience—open, searching, thirsting. Prayer moments reinforced our hunch of just how special these young people were as we witnessed their deep reverence during the celebration of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Vespers. Many came and even returned throughout the day, requesting guidance in the discernment of a religious vocation, leaving contact information for follow up.

A moment none will be quick to forget occurred at the end of the liturgy. Archbishop Gregory Aymond called forth the seventy seminarians present. Then he invited anyone who is currently seriously discerning a vocation to priesthood or consecrated religious life to come forward for a blessing. A seemingly endless stream filed forward. All were awe-struck, including the archbishop himself, who, after a lengthy pause, exclaimed, “Wow!” Then, as if upon a cue, the entire assembly burst into an arousing applause and rose. Tears flowed. Hope swelled. Our Catholic Young Church is alive and well!

~Sr. Theresa Jones, FMA
Photos by Sr. Thuy Huong Nguyen, FMA
Save the Date!

The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco proudly present

The Sonny Melendrez Charity Golf Classic

Monday September 26, 2011

Only $150 per player!
All Golf Tournament Players receive:
Goodie Bag
Green Fees & Driving Range
On Course Refreshments
Pre-Tournament Lunch
Awards Dinner

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

When:
Monday
September 26, 2011
Registration & Lunch: 11 am
Silent Auction & Dinner: 4:30-6:30

All Proceeds to Benefit Children’s Education

To Register or for More Information:
Contact Esmeralda Castillo or Heather Walter at (210) 431-4999 or email sswdevelopment@sbcglobal.net
About 50 children participated in this year’s Vacation Bible School, directed by Sr. Guadalupe Medina, FMA, and the assistance of twenty-eight Youth ROC (Rely on Christ) leaders and five Salesian cooperators. From July 11-15, the Cristo Rey Parish Center was transformed into a colorful bamboo forest, complete with fun-loving pandas. From the games to the music and everything in between, every part of “PandaMania” VBS helped the children focus on all the things that helped them connect to God. Each child’s heart received the gospel message everyday in an unforgettable way. This year’s VBS experience was fun, not only for the children, but also for the Youth Roc leaders who enjoyed sharing their time and talents.

Having fun at Vacation Bible School
Colorado Springs
Cheyenne Wells, Elizabeth/Kiowa, Calhan

Quotes from VIDES Volunteers
Formation Service Camp
June 2011- Asherton, TX.

Theresa Khong – Aspirant
“God opened my eyes and heart through the children!”

Caitlin Wulf
“I plan to keep doing volunteer and mission work throughout my life to follow a little bit in the footsteps of John Bosco and Mary Mazzarello.”

Mireya Carrillo
“I learned a lot with the children and my companions, and I know it was just the beginning.”

Andrew Holzbog
“What is my purpose on earth? Why am I here? Because God sent me to spend time with you.”
Donald Casper

Donald Casper, 63, was killed by a hit-and-run driver while he was jogging on August 14, 2011. Though his death was a senseless act, his life was full of meaning and value. Donald attended Saints Peter and Paul School and as his classmate I can attest that he was always studious and highly intelligent. He had a great love and esteem for the Salesian Sisters and Sr. Anita Ferrari was his revered teacher and friend. He was devoted to his faith and was proud of his North Beach San Francisco roots. Donald was respected for his honesty and prudence as a lawyer and also made his mark in political circles. He actively belonged to many prestigious and varied organizations. For us, Salesian Sisters he was a loyal friend and benefactor, ever kind, humble and generous. He will be missed, but surely his legacy will live on.

Helene Guella

Helen Guella, 71, from Clarkston, Michigan, died on July 15, 2011, just four months after the death of her husband, Richard. Her two children Jeffrey and Theresa requested that donations in memory of their dear mother be made to us, the Salesian Sisters. We have received over $1,000.00 in memorial offerings. We are most grateful to the Guella family for their kindness and generosity. We prayerfully remember Mr. and Mrs. Guella asking God to grant them eternal rest. We also pray for the Guella Family, that they be richly blessed.

Joseph Lormans

Joseph Lormans, 77, died in April, 2011, in Santa Maria, California. He was a friend and benefactor of the Salesian Sisters and faithfully supported our ministries with his prayers and financial assistance for many years. We pray for his eternal repose and offer our condolences to Florence, his wife, and to the rest of the Lormans family. We have all been richly blessed for having known Mr. Lormans. May he intercede for us from heaven!
September 8, 2011

Dear Salesian Family and Friends:

We are pleased to inform you that on February 11, 2012, our Western Province of Mary Immaculate will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. In 2012, along with our anniversary, we will also be celebrating one hundred forty years as a religious institute, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians!

Our Institute has been abundantly blessed as it has spread to over 90 countries. The journey towards the birth of our own Province unfolds as a fascinating and adventurous story. In 1908, our Sisters came from Italy to New York to care for and evangelize the masses of immigrants, mostly from Italy. Soon many schools were opened and an orphanage established on the east coast. In 1921, a courageous group of Sisters travelled west to care for orphans in Watsonville, California.

Beginning in the early 1930's, several Sisters belonging to the Mexican Province crossed the border into Texas looking for a house in order to escape the Mexican religious persecution. They were intrepid pioneers and soon established convents, schools, camps and catechetical centers in south Texas. In 1987, the distances and ministries being what they were, it became necessary for a western USA province to be established. Thus began our Province of Mary Immaculate!

Today as daughters of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, we continue to serve the young, through our educational endeavors as teachers, school administrators, catechists and youth ministers. We also have outreach programs for immigrants, and conduct several summer camps.

To celebrate God’s goodness to us throughout these 25 years, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Our Lady of the Lake University, Sacred Heart Chapel, at 4 p.m., followed by a Gala Dinner at the OMNI Hotel at the Colonnade in San Antonio, TX., Grand Ballroom, at 5:30 p.m. We would be honored by your presence.

Your contribution can be made in the form of purchasing congratulatory ads for a commemorative book marking the event or buying dinner tickets and/or sponsorships for the gala celebration. The deadline for all financial contributions is January 27, 2012.

All proceeds will be used to further our educational ministry to the young and also to complete the expansion of our Provincial House, a work that is now in progress. Do remember that this 25th anniversary is a celebration of all the many members of our wonderful Salesian Family who have journeyed with us beginning with the early years that have made this last quarter of a century possible. Please contact Esmeralda Castillo, Development Director, at (210) 431-4999 or email sswdevelopment@sbcglobal.net, with any questions. Dinner tickets can also be ordered online at www.salesiansisterswest.org (click on “events” on our homepage).

In the name of all our Salesian Sisters, including those who have gone before us, I thank you for joining in our anniversary preparation/celebration. We are grateful for your generosity!

God bless you,

Sr. Patricia King, FMA

Sr. Patricia King, FMA, Provincial

Enclosures
Personal Messages and/or Business Ads

Black/white/color camera ready ads
Should be e-mailed in PDF or JPEG formats,
300 dpi resolution to:
sswdevelopment@sbcglobal.net

Business Card @ $100 (2” x 3 ½"
¼ page @ $500 (4” x 5”)
½ page @ $900 (5” x 8”)
Full page @ $1,600 (8” x 10 ½”)

Please contact me if you would like to purchase one of our exclusive ads below:
Outside Back Cover @ $2,400 (8” x 10 ½”)
Inside Back Cover @ $1,800 (8” x 10 ½”)
Inside Front Cover @ $1,800 (8” x 10 ½”)

In lieu of an ad, a personal congratulatory message may be written out and sent to the above e-mail address.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PERSONAL MESSAGES AND/OR BUSINESS ADS WILL BE:
JANUARY 16, 2012

For more details on contributions to the
25th Anniversary of the
Mary Immaculate Province
visit website:
www.salesiansisterswest.org

Credit card payments made on our website will be processed safely and securely through PayPal.

Payments made by check should be mailed directly to:
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco
25th Anniversary Book
Attn: Esmeralda Castillo
6019 Buena Vista Street
San Antonio, TX 78237

Please make checks payable to:
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco

Everyone attending the event will be receiving a complimentary copy of the Commemorative Book.
Those purchasing business ads will also receive a copy.

Tributes in Memory of Deceased or in Honor of Living Family, Friends, or Loved Ones
One name, couple, or family name per line. $50.00 donation per submission.

Samples:
“In Loving Memory of Paul R. Garcia”, “In Honor of The Sanchez Family”

N.B: The names of deceased or living family, friends, or loved ones appearing in the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Congratulatory Book will be placed on a special list which will be included in the Sisters’ prayers and Masses offered daily for one year, January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012, at the Provincial House in San Antonio, TX.

*25th Anniversary Booklet Sponsors*
Levels of major donors will appear in the 25th Anniversary Commemorative Congratulatory Book as a listing of names. Donors name and/or business will appear on one line. Donors may also be listed as Anonymous, if so desired and requested.

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Connections is designed especially for our Salesian Family and Friends!

Congratulations Novices!

Novice Sydney Moss, with her mother and father.

Novice Alaina Zachmann, with family/friends.

Has your address changed?
We would like to keep in touch with you so that you may continue to receive our CONNECTIONS newsletter and any other important updates or information about upcoming endeavors the Sisters have planned. Please provide us with your current information below and kindly mail it to our office.

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