

Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco

DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Western Province, USA



Connections

FALL/WINTER 2009 CELEBRATING YOUTH, BUILDING THE FUTURE | WWW.SALESIANSISTERSWEST.ORG

SWING "FORE" EDUCATION

2009 Salesian Sisters Golf Tournament

On Monday, September 28, 2009, we held our 6th Annual Golf Tournament, benefiting the Salesian Sisters' Education Fund, which provides scholarships and tuition subsidy to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity for a Catholic private school education. Thank you for making this year another success. The event was fun and exciting especially with Sean Elliott & Bruce Bowen, retired Spurs, joining us for the day. Sean even made a hole-in-one (unfortunately, not the \$15,000 hole) and we appreciate his kind words about us at the Awards Dinner.

As family, we are most grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, SWBC Employee Benefits Consulting Group, all the Sponsors, the golfers, the Golf Committee, and the many volunteers who participated in this year's event. Thank you seems such a small expression to offer those who put forth so much effort to promote Salesian education. Together, we work for the continuation of the Salesian mission of education initiated by St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello, co-founders of the Salesian Sisters. Thank you again for your support; participation and helping us raise almost \$11,000, making the 6th Annual Salesian Sisters Golf Tournament & Silent Auction a success again this year.



We are all most grateful to Sean Elliott (l), Bruce Bowen(r), retired Spurs, and Cathy Starnes, CEO of SWBC, the tournament's Presenting Sponsor for making the event most memorable and supporting children's education.

There are so many people to recognize, our Sponsors (see page 9), our Volunteers, and all those who supported the event with auction donations, goodies, food, and drink. First of all, Cathy Starnes, CEO of our Corporate Presenting Sponsor, SWBC Employee Benefits Consulting received a plaque expressing our appreciation as the major sponsor of the event. Also, Larry Kennedy from SWBC for accepting the role as Golf Chair, Dean Allen-Tournament Coordinator, Mary Anne Oehler-Silent Auction Chair, David Treviño-Laredo Golf Chair, and Irma Bijarro as our Volunteer Chair. Without them and their efforts the tournament would not have been as successful and enjoyable. (Con't on Page 8)

GEM STUDY DAY

GUIDELINES FOR THE EDUCATIONAL MISSION OF THE FMA

Saturday, October 17th marked the beginning of a six year plan for the study and deepening of the GEM (Guidelines for the Educational Mission of the FMA). This first study day took place in San Antonio, Texas. Over 50 Sisters were in attendance and enthusiastically took part in general assemblies, small group discussions and in the commissioning service which ended the day. Sr. Barbara Campbell and Sr. Mary Mullaly facilitated the day-long event with Sr. Sandra Neaves, our Provincial, setting the tone with her insightful presentation which was followed by Dewitt Jones; thought-provoking DVD entitled, "Celebrate What's Right With the World."



Salesian Sisters' Golf Logo in Golf Ball Art



*My Dear Salesian Family,
Since it has been quite some time since we last shared a moment through the Connections Newsletter, I am happy to have this present opportunity. So much has happened in the past months and each day continues to be a manifestation of the goodness and mercy of God.*

Sr. Sandra Neaves, FMA

This issue of Connections will give you a glimpse of the events that we have celebrated and participated in as Salesian Family. We have a new Salesian Sister among us, Sr. Bernadette Mota. Sr. Thuy V. Nguyen has completed her missionary training in Rome and Sr. Charlotte Greer has answered the call of the Institute for a ministry in the Middle East. Truly the Lord continues to call individuals to give their lives in service to His people in every corner of the globe!

Lord Jesus.” The synod began with the reading of the entire Bible from beginning to end. The reading was continuous, 24 hours a day until the last verse of the Sacred Scriptures had been proclaimed. I was very moved by this beautiful gesture since it brings to my mind the great gift that we have in the Word of God. As God’s people we are called to take the Scriptures in our hands daily, to read the WORD, listen to it, allow it to dwell in us, to speak to us and to change us. The Scriptures contain the answers to life’s questions. They are God reaching out to comfort us in difficult times, God rejoicing with us and showing us the way. Let us make every effort so that the WORD of God becomes a vital part of our lives and the lives of our families. In doing this we will experience the gentle embrace of a God who loves us all very much.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Sandra Neaves, FMA

Last year during the month of October, the Church was celebrating the Synod on the Word of God. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI brought together Church Leadership from around the world “to reflect on the Word of God, on its central role in the life of the Church and on its dynamism which encourages Christians in mission to announce in words and deeds the Good News, the presence in our midst of the

In this Edition...

<i>Swing “Fore” Education / GEM Study . . .</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>From the Provincial</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Special Events & Visits</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Summer Camps across the Province . . .</i>	<i>4-5</i>
<i>Jubilee Celebration</i>	<i>6-7</i>
<i>6th Annual Golf Tournament</i>	<i>8-9</i>
<i>Developments</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>In Memoriam</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Back Cover.</i>	<i>12</i>

GEM STUDY DAY

Con’t from Page 1



Our Provincial introduced the concept of the SEC (Salesian Education Commission) which will include all our ministries and collaborators. Written comments demonstrated the desire to continue and focus the energy by establishing a possible “family day” of shared reflection and celebration of our Salesian spirituality; a “regional study day” annually.

The Sisters’ comments also shared their common experience of shared blessings and learning from each other. Today “was a refreshing and enriching Salesian experience” that renews us in our daily lives. Regional study days will follow in the northern and southern California regions in the coming weeks.



Special Visitors and Events

Sr. Ida Grasso, former Provincial when the USA was one Province and Sr. Livia Setti, a missionary to the US graced us with a brief visit to the Provincial House in San Antonio, Texas on May 24 of this year. Both of these Sisters have deep roots in our US Provinces and we hold them gratefully in our hearts.



Sr. Kathleen Taylor, member of the General Council in Rome has been named as the contact person for the Province of Mary Immaculate. She was present in the Province briefly from August 27 to September 3rd. After a whirlwind visit to many of our houses, she joined the leadership of the two American Provinces and the Pre-Province of Canada for a meeting of the NAC (North American Conference) that took place in North Haledon, New Jersey.



Egypt-Bound

On August 19, 2009, the communities of San Antonio gathered to bless Sr. Charlotte Greer as she prepared to leave for her new mission, St. Claire's School, in Cairo, Egypt. The prayer service was brief yet carried a profound meaning of unity and collaboration within our Religious Institute. As the service ended, Sr. Charlotte received a Middle Eastern peace cup overflowing with short messages of blessings and good wishes from all the Sisters of the Province. Our prayers continue to follow Sr. Charlotte in her new mission and she assures us that she feels our prayers and loving support.



Adwa, Ethiopia

Sr. Thuy Virgine Nguyen has completed her studies and training in Rome and now has begun her missionary work in Adwa, Ethiopia. Adwa is located on the northern-most border of Ethiopia and is rich only in natural beauty. The work of the Sisters there includes: a boarding school for girls, nursery through high school, a technical and professional school for computer studies and sewing, youth center, social services with emphasis on the promotion of young girls and women. Sr. Thuy will have much to do so let's support her with our prayers and good works!



Gina Crotti (March 23, 1921-August 24, 2009)

My mother peacefully went home to heaven from her home in Roseville, California with many of her children present at her bedside. I am grateful to everyone who has reached out with such love and prayerful support not only now but during the entire year mom was under hospice care. Mom greatly valued Catholic education and all nine of us, her children, went to Catholic School. The donations received for the Friends of Don Bosco Scholarship Fund in mom's memory will help needy and deserving children attend our Salesian Catholic schools. We know mom must be very pleased! Thank you! – Sr. Rachel Crotti, FMA



SUMMER CAMPS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

“What is so special about this camp?” asked the mother of a returning camper. “My child was here last summer, and she could hardly wait to come back this year!”

This mother was talking about one of our Salesian Sisters’ Summer Camps. Some are resident camps, others are day camps and others are special summer programs for children and youth. And what is it that makes the camps so “special”? Is it the facilities? The activities? The food? Whether the camps are in the heart of Texas, the beautiful deserts of Arizona, the mountains of Colorado, or the

foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains in California, it is truly the Salesian “family spirit” that makes life at each camp so special.

The Sisters, the counselors, and the youth assistants are all dedicated to giving the children a wholesome, Christ-filled, Salesian experience of fun, formation, and friendship, with Mary as mother and everything “wrapped in love.”



SUMMER CAMPS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

The Sisters of the Western Province run the summer camps in many localities, where they minister throughout the year. Each of these places becomes an unforgettable happy experience for all who attend. It is an experience they would never want to miss. Our camps are in the following locations:

2009 Camps

- **ARIZONA, AVONDALE:** St. John Vianney, Summer Day Camp
- **CALIFORNIA, CORRALITOS:** Camp Auxilium – Resident Camp
- **CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO:** Sts. Peter and Paul Summer Program
- **CALIFORNIA, WATSONVILLE:** Campo Maria Auxiliadora
- **COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS:** Vacation Bible Camps
- **TEXAS, ASHERTON:** VIDES Summer Camp
- **TEXAS, AUSTIN:** Vacation Bible School
- **TEXAS CONVENT:** Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico: Oratorio Salesiano Don Bosco
- **TEXAS, SAN ANTONIO:** St. John Bosco Summer Day Camp

We wish to thank all the Summer Programs' volunteers, parents and supporters for their dedication, devotion, and dollars, which makes the summer camp experience a fun and joy filled experience for the children and the Sisters, too. God bless you.



JUBILEE CELEBRATION

“All our lives, God is faithful. It is His grace that

Whether it is the overwhelming joy of the novice making her first vows, or the intensity of the deep joy that comes only from a life lived in love and faithfulness, each is a celebration of God’s gift of love. This August the Salesian Sisters celebrated both.

On Wednesday, August 5, 2009, Novice **Bernadette Mota** made her first profession and became **Sister Bernadette Mota, FMA**. The ceremony began with Sr. Bernadette’s parents accompanying her down the aisle and joining with the community in the joy of her commitment.

Father Jack Gibson, SDB, spoke of this joy, this trust in God, this desire to serve, not only regarding Sister’s commitment, but the love and commitment of her parents as well. In the Provincial House Chapel, Bernadette made her vows of chastity, poverty and obedience as a Salesian Sister, a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, in the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello, founders. Let us all keep this new Sister in our prayers. May Sr. Bernadette Mota, FMA be blessed and a blessing to others in her new life.

SR. BERNADETTE 1st Profession –August 5th



Sr. Bernadette’s religious habit awaits her.



Sr. Bernadette is assisted in putting on her veil by the Provincial, Sr. Sandra Neaves.



Sr. Bernadette signs the official register as a Salesian Sister.



Sr. Bernadette with her joyful parents



JUBILEE CELEBRATION

allows us to make our vows and be faithful in return”

-SR. ANGELITA GUZMÁN, FMA 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Then on August 9, 2009, the Salesian Family; Sisters, priests, families, friends, and benefactors gathered to witness our Jubilarians renewal of vows at Our Lady of the Lake University Chapel. The Jubilarians celebrated many years of loving service to the young. Those we honor after 60 years are Sr. Rita Bailey, Sr. Rita Fantin, Sr. Angelita Guzmán, and Sr. Mary Tamayo; celebrating 40 years, Sr Lena Pinto. The prayerful liturgy was followed by a lovely reception in OLLU hall. Later that evening, Sisters and families gathered for a special time of remembering.



Congratulations Jubilarians



2009 SALESIAN SISTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

6th Annual Golf Tournament & Silent Auction



*Sr. Sandra Neaves, Provincial
present plaque to Cathy Starnes from SWBC*

The golfers were certainly surprised when the “special guests” turned out to be Sean Elliott and Bruce Bowen, former Spurs, who showed up to play. Sean even made a hole-in-one, unfortunately not on the \$15,000 one, but he did win a Sean even made a hole-in-one, winning a \$500 Visa Gift Card. All our 88 golfers attempted to make our Target Hole-in-One for \$15,000, but one other Aces were scored that day. We are so grateful for their attendance and generosity with the people they met.

After the door prizes were awarded, the scores were finally posted during dinner. (See pictures) First Place received a pair of golf shoes, for each member of the team. The Second Place Team each received a new golf bag, and the Third Place Team members each received a \$50 gift certificate to Golf Galaxy. The final awards were the contest winners, Closest to the Pin winner was Larry Kennedy, Golf Chair, and the Longest Drive Men’s was taken by Larry Burrow on the SWBC II Team, and Cathy Starnes took the prize for the Longest Drive Ladies. Our players and other guests at dinner thoroughly enjoyed the steak buffet and after the awards, the evening reluctantly ended.



1ST PLACE

Partner’s Business Network, Inc.



2ND PLACE

IBC Bank



3RD PLACE

*SWBC Employee Benefits
Consulting Group*



LONGEST DRIVE, MEN’S

Larry Burrow wins a hybrid driver



LONGEST DRIVE, LADIES

Cathy Starnes wins a hybrid driver.



CLOSEST TO THE PIN

Larry Kennedy wins a hybrid driver



2009 SALESIAN SISTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting and Funding Education



Bruce Bowen (l) and Sean Elliott (r) head out to the first tee.



Silent Auction Volunteer Lidia Dominguez (l) and SA Chair Mary Anne Oehler (r) help out on the course.



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& Closest-to-the-Pin Contest

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SEPTEMBER 28, 2009



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Golfer taking a swing.



Special mention St. John Bosco School Junior Team scored par on their round with no mulligans.

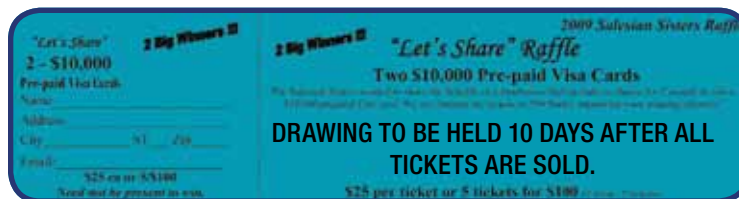


Retired Sisters need Special Bus

\$20,000 Jumbo "Let's Share Drawing" to Fund Purchase

As announced in our last CONNECTIONS, the Sisters are having a drawing to raise money for the Province. Only 500 books @ \$100 each were printed in hopes of raising enough to help our retired Sisters. This makes the chances of winning for the purchaser of one book 1 of 250!!! Of the money raised, \$20,000 is to be used to present two lucky winners with \$10,000 Visa Gift Cards each. The Sisters wanted to share the benefits of their fund-raiser, especially in these economic times. The original date for the drawing was September 28th, but not all books sold. So, since those who have purchased tickets (about half are already sold) still wanted to have the drawing and preferred to keep going, the Sisters have decided to continue ticket sales until all 500 books are sold. Once sold, each ticket holder will be notified as to when and where 10 days before the actual drawing for the two first prize gift cards. Also, we have decided to forego this year's annual appeal and instead continue the ticket book sales.

The transportation of more than one or two Sisters has created some issues, especially for those in wheelchairs. We need to provide transportation for at least 8-12 Sisters at a time in a safe, comfortable, and accessible vehicle. We have found the vehicle, it is a 14 passenger bus with accommodation for 2 wheelchairs, a lift, safety belts,



adjustable chairs, skid proof floors and does not require a commercial license to drive (see picture). The vendor, Church Bus, a division of MidWest Transit (www.churchbus.com), has given us the best quote for a brand new one at \$49,900. They are holding the price for us while we raise the money.

We hope to raise \$30,000 from the raffle, and anticipate that the raffle will attract more participants. To that end, please find the ticket purchase flyer inserted in this issue and return in the envelope. We will continue to sell the ticket books until they are all sold, and we are looking for grant opportunities, donations, and/or sponsors for the balance. Any offering toward purchasing the 14-passenger Bus for our retired Sisters at the Provincial House is much appreciated. Please keep this project in your prayers and thank you for your generosity.



Sr. Jane Memorial

Dear Sisters,

On April 7, 2009, from the Provincial House Community of San Antonio, Texas, USA the Lord of Life called into eternity our dear, Sister Jane Jasso, FMA. Sister Jane was born in San Francisco del Rincon, Guanajuato, Mexico, on February 8, 1930. Sister's profession on August 5, 1953 took place in Habana, Cuba and she belonged to the Western United States Province of "Mary Immaculate"

Sister Jane's own words give us a wonderful insight into her early life. "My father was a good and hard-working farmer and my mother was kind and self-sacrificing. I recall how she used to go around the house each night to bless it and to entrust the family to the Blessed Mother. During winter nights she entertained us, her five children, with the beauty of our religion and with the lives of the saints. We were captivated and I believe my religious vocation was born at that time." Born on February 8, 1930, she lived in the little town of San Francisco del Rincon, Guanajuato, Mexico, until her entrance into the convent in 1949. Sr. Jane believed that throughout her life, God provided the persons that would help her to follow His call.

Her rich and fruitful life was characterized by enthusiasm for living. Whatever she did, she did wholeheartedly and with zest. Her encounters with others were loving and affirming. Jane entered the Congregation in Mexico City in 1949 and lived the years of her initial formation until her first profession, in 1953, in Habana, Cuba. From that time on, Sr. Jane spent her days teaching Kindergarten and taking care of domestic responsibilities in the convent, most often as cook/dietician. Her main occupation, however, was that of catechist. Even in the very last year of her life, she continued to teach the little ones about Jesus for as long as she could.

In 2000, Sr. Jane underwent serious cancer surgery and though the recovery was long and hard, it seemed as though the cancer was gone. Sr. Jane became as



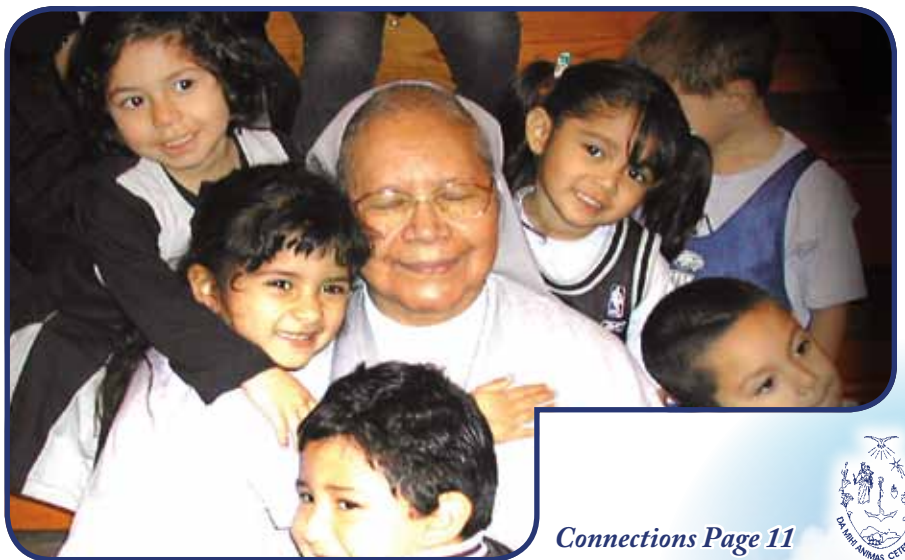
Sister Jane Jasso, Fma

February 8, 1930 - April 7, 2009

active as ever in the Provincial House Community. Her great love for Mary Help of Christians was given a proper and visible channel when she was appointed moderator of the ADMA (Association of the Devotees of Mary Help of Christians) group, an integral member of the Salesian Family. This group has grown in number and in their Marian devotion throughout the years.

When the cancer recurred and there was no hope for recovery, Sr. Jane submitted to treatment, but tried her best to continue her catechetical and Marian ministry. She never focused in on herself, but tranquilly moved ahead with dignity and a calm peaceful demeanor. A few weeks after beginning hospice, on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, she left this world for her heavenly reward. Sister was 79. Truly, Sr. Jane was consumed like a light and life-giving candle. Her courage, energy, and strength came from her deep love and devotion to Jesus and Mary. May Sr. Jane help us to do likewise!

Sr. Sandra Neves



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Connections is designed especially for our Salesian Friends and Family. It is produced by the Salesian Sisters Development Office, Western Province, USA.

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Saturday Dec 12 10am to 5pm	<h2 style="color: red;">2009 Salesian Sisters Christmas Boutique</h2> <p style="color: red;">Saturday thru Monday - December 12 thru 14, 2009</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;">   </div> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Salesian Sisters Provincial House 6019 Buena Vista Street, San Antonio, Texas 78237 (210) 431-1919</p>	<i>Beautiful Gifts, lovingly hand-crafted for your special Christmas items for the entire Family</i>
Sunday Dec 13 1pm to 5pm		
Monday Dec 14 10am to 5pm		

PERPETUAL MASS CARD \$25.00

SINGLE MASS CARD \$15.00

Available at the Sisters' Convents, on-line at salesiansisterswest.org, or by calling (210) 431-4999.

THIS SEASON:

Give the Gift of Prayer

