Latest News

Don Ángel Fernández Artime is the Tenth Successor of Don Bosco!

The 27th General Chapter has elected Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, Provincial of Southern Argentina, as tenth Successor of Don Bosco. The election took place at 10.20 on the first ballot. The official announcement was welcomed with long and warm applause.

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, 53 years of age was born 21 August 1960 at Gozón-Luango, Spain; he made his first profession on 3 September 1978, his perpetual profession on 17 June 1984 and was ordained priest on 4 July 1987. Originally from León Province, he has been Youth Ministry Delegate, Rector of the school at Ourense, member of the Council and Vice Provincial and, from 2000 to 2006, Provincial of León.

He was a member of the technical commission in preparation for General Chapter 26. In 2009 he was appointed Provincial in Argentine South, a task he has carried out until now. In this capacity he got to know the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, and to work with him.

He has a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology and a Licence in Philosophy and Pedagogy.

On 23 December last he was appointed Provincial of the new province of Mary Help of Christians in Spain, an office which Fr Angel will obviously not now be able to take on, since he will exercise his ministry as Father of the whole Salesian Family.

Best wishes, Fr Angel!

First words

Speaking in Spanish, Fr Angel said with an emotional heart: "I abandon myself to the Lord. We ask Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians to accompany us and to accompany me, with my brother Salesians and with the Congregation, and I accept with faith."

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuWaUmImQckYUiaXBnflBEw

Embrace to all confrairs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAeyDNS15S8&index=52&list=PLB014B70D378FCC73

Thanks Fr. Pascual

Last good night as ninth Successor of Don Bosco

I like your job!” Fr Pascual Chávez took a cue from this statement that was conveyed to him in 2006 by a student in New Rochelle for the "Good Night" yesterday, Monday, March 24. Fr Chávez wrote a message to express his joy and gratitude at being called on April 2, 2002 as the successor of Don Bosco.

Full video in ANS Channel - Youtube:

Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lo2CKicSB2A&list=UuWaUmImQckYUiaXBnflBEw

Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdDDs1v1Pkc&list=UuWaUmImQckYUiaXBnflBEw
Reelection of Mr. Agostinho dos Santos as President of National Federation of East Timor!

Last 21st and 22nd December took place the National Assembly of East Timor Federation in which Mr. Agostinho dos Santos Gonçalves was reelected as President and the board was renewed for the period 2013 – 2018.

Provincial Fr. João Paulino Guterres (in the middle of the picture) accompanied the Past Pupils during the whole meeting and celebrated the conclusive Holy Mass.

Animation visit to Cambodia – February 2014

Last February Councillor for Asia Rajesh Gupta, visited the upcoming Federation of Cambodia, to support the start-up of this Federation that starts to get organized, after their first participation in the Congress of Bangkok, in February 2013.

Getting to know World Statutes
(Article 16 c-f)

c) The **Confederal Executive Council** is composed of:

- The Confederal President.
- The GEX Confederal Vice President.
- An adult Regional Councillor (elected by simple majority by the Confederal Presidency).
- The Secretary General.
- The Confederal Treasurer.
- The Vicar of the Rector Major.
- The Confederal Delegate.

d) **Distribution of the regions’ representation for elections in the World Assembly:**

- Europe: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- Africa: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- Latin America: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX;
- Asia: 2 candidates, 1 adult and 1 GEX.

e) **Specialist-Consultants:**

The Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation can co-opt one or more specialist-consultants up to a maximum of 3 members, in subjects in which a special skill is required, following appointments which must expressly indicate their skills and terms of duration. The commission's reports are not the exclusive property of the Presidency. The members of this commission do not have voting rights.

f) **Special Commissions:**

The Confederal Presidency can likewise set up a Commission integrated by expert Past Pupils - up to a maximum of 3 persons - in the matters on the table for discussion, to whom a special authority will be given in a particular issue. The Confederal Presidency will fix in advance the tasks and duties of the Commission, the work and submission timeframes for proposals and recommendations, to be issued in a final report of the Confederal Presidency of the World Confederation.
End of the pilgrimage of Don Bosco relic in the World visiting S. Marino, Lithuania and Switzerland (Lugano)

Monday 24 February, the relic left Italy - but only to enter the small state of the Republic of San Marino. Here the relic was venerated by many groups: Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils, catechism groups and local clergy. Various functions were organized in the presence of the relic.

1 March, the relic will be in Lithuania where it will remain for two weeks. This will be followed by a visit to Lugano in Switzerland which will bring to an end the world pilgrimage of the relics of Don Bosco.

http://www.infoans.org/1.asp?sez=1&sotSez=13&doc=10373&lingua=2

Calendar of events 2014

National Congresses and other meetings:
France: 28-30 de March in Paris
Presidents-Delegates Europe: from 2nd to 4th May (Auschwitz, Poland)
Rep. Dominicana: beginning of May in Sto Domingo
Italy: 17th and 18th May (venue to be determined)
España: 7th and 8th June in Madrid
Portugal: 21st and 22nd June (venue to be determined)
Brazil: mid-August (Itajai, Santa Catarina)
Argentina: from 3rd to 5th October near Córdoba
Slovakia: from 10th to 12th October in Bratislava
Chile: from 31st October to 2nd November (venue to be determined)

GEX Meetings:
Centre America: from 17th to 20th April (San José, Costa Rica)
Europe: from 1st to 4th May (Auschwitz, Poland)
School of Leaders East Timor: from 12th to 14th September in Fatumaca
Spain: from 24th to 26th October (in Horta-Barcelona)

World Presidency Meeting: from 21st to 24th June in Rome – General House (First meeting with the new Rector Mayor)

Note: those Federations not included in the list above can write to us to communicate their dates and thanks to those that have written to us.

Assembly 8th Bicentenary Pilgrimage
3 – 6 October 2015 – Rome
6 – 9 October 2015 – Torino

President’s Word

Dear friends,
I write you these lines in the day after the election of Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime as Rector Mayor and of Fr. Francesco Cereda as his Vicar.

We greet the tenth Successor of Don Bosco and its Vicar with great joy, sure that this election made by the Chapter members has been done for the good of the whole Congregation and the Salesian Family.

During the opening ceremony of GC 27 I have been nicely welcomed by some many Provincials, and this represents without any doubt a sign of appreciation for the work developed by World Presidency and Council following the own “Work Plan”, with the basic support of World Delegate Fr. José Pastor.

In our Work Plan one of our priorities are GEX. This weekend I took part together with Vice-president GEX Ángel Gudiña and the Councillor for Communication Dony Sapienza, in the Workshop organized by Italian National Federation. The enthusiasm and life that I have seen in the faces of the participants, over 40, represent without any doubt a wonderful sign.

In this same field we are getting prepared for the important meeting in Costa Rica (ELCA) and also for Eurogex in Poland. Both nations represent themselves an element of newness. These meetings will be a moment of closure in the itinerary already done and have the objective of renewing the Association.

In this sense we are also starting to work on School of Leaders in Asia (we have already started contact with East Timor) and I wish that shortly we will begin again the itinerary of formation interrupted in Africa.
**Appointments**

**Takes possession Mons. Sturla as archbishop of Montevideo! – Uruguay 9th March**


The Salesian Archbishop said: "The Church is a house with open doors, maté ready and the table set. Catholics should not be afraid to be missionaries and to go out and invite. Let's go especially to the young and the poor. We'll find them in many corners of our suburbs, where it is not always the desire to build that brings them together. We will share our joy with them, or better still, we will help them to find their own joy.


**Appointment:**

11 February, the Holy Father, Francis, accepted the resignation of Archbishop Nicolás Cotugno Fanizzi sdb from the pastoral care of the Archdiocese of Montevideo, Uruguay and appointed Daniel Fernando Sturla Berhouet, also a Salesian, as Archbishop. Until now he has been titular Bishop of Felbes and Auxiliary of the same diocese.

Archbishop Daniel Fernando Sturla Berhouet was born 4 July 1959 at Montevideo. After making his novitiate in Manga, Montevideo, he made his first vows on 31 January 1980.


**Whispered words by the World Delegate**

In the origin of the Past Pupils movement its placed don Bosco, whose personality, educational method founded on reason, religion and loving kindness proved in loving presence, as practised in the Oratorio in a climate of family and confidence. The Past Pupil cannot be conceived with a direct reference to don Bosco.

He offered to his youngsters “a house that hosts, a parish that evangelizes, a school that addresses for life and a patio where to find friends and enjoy. These four gifts of Don Bosco to his youngsters generated in them a strong feeling of thankfulness, for this reason they visited him regularly to greet him, give him presents, ensure his prayer for him, but especially to express their affection on his onomastic, 24th June. Past Pupils have continued this nice tradition with the successors of Don Bosco.

The General Chapter 27, the last 25th March, has elected don Ángel Fernández Artime as new Rector Mayor and X Successor of Don Bosco. He is an easygoing, close, affable, amicable, with the strong conviction that the most important capital that the Salesian Family has are its members. Past Pupils of all around the world ensure to their spiritual father and centre of the Salesian Family our prayer, support and kindness of grateful sons. Our gratefulness to the Lord that lighten the Chapter members on the election of the tenth Successor of don Bosco.
Don Raúl Biord Castillo, SDB, appointed Bishop in Venezuela

Pope Francis appointed Fr Biord Raúl Castillo, SDB, as Bishop of the new Diocese of La Guaira, Venezuela. Until now, Fr Castillo has been Vice-Provincial and Delegate for Formation in the Salesian Province of Venezuela.

Raúl Biord was born on 23 October 1962 in San Antonio de los Altos, Venezuela. He made his perpetual vows as a Salesian on 13 September 1987 in Rome, where he completed his theological studies. He was ordained priest on 15 July 1989 at San Antonio de los Altos, Venezuela.


¡Nueva diócesis para Mons. Teixera, SDB!

Yesterday, 20 March, Pope Francis appointed Bishop José Valmor César Teixeira, SDB, Bishop of the Diocese of São José dos Campos in Brazil. Until now, Bishop Teixeira was Bishop of Bom Jesus da Lapa, also in Brazil.

The diocese assigned to Bishop Teixiera measures 3271 km² and has a population of 885,237, of whom 690,495 or 78% are Catholic. There are 81 priests, 223 religious and 107 permanent deacons.

Bishop Teixiera succeeds Bishop Moacir Silva, who was appointed bishop of Ribeirão Preto last April.


Solidarity Corner

During the last months World Confederation has organized a call in order to chose the Solidarity Project for 2014.

Considering the urgency of the needs detected and the quality of the project presented the Evaluation Commission has chosen the Project:

FREE MEDICAL UNIT

Managed by Past Pupils of Lilluah, Kolkata (India) will be the economically supported in 2014, and that provides medical services to the poorest amongst the poor in Lilluah.

Our objective: raise the number of patients catered for free (about 100 people a week)

The objective: put into practice the mandate of Don Bosco that Rector Mayor remembered to us: Create a Society of Mutual Help.

You may collaborate in the following bank account:

**Bank:** POSTE ITALIANE.
**SWIFT:** BPPIITRRXXX.
**IBAN:** IT53O0760103200000043261007
GEX Corner

**National Workshop: The colours of the future**

From March 21 to 23 was held at Sacro Cuore in Rome the National Workshop of Italian Young Past Pupils entitled "The colours of the future." The meeting was attended by over 40 young people from Lombardy, Latium, Tuscany, Piedmont, Campania, Calabria, Sardinia and Sicily, which were accompanied by, in this three-day training, distinguished speakers. The meeting was opened on Friday with the usual greetings of the Director of the San Lorenzo community, Don Claudio Belfiore, vice president GEX, Matteo Lai, and National Delegate, Don Giovanni Russo. The participants have also heard the testimony of the vicepresident of the Slovak Federation, Michal Hort, invited as a guest to present the functioning of its National Association for the purpose of initiating an exchange of best practices. The evening continued, after dinner, with the good night of Don Giovanni D'Andrea, delegate of the SCS and, later, with a time of interregional celebration during which past-pupils of each region have offered to others typical products of the territory.

Saturday began with the intervention of the National President, Giancarlo Colombo, who reaffirmed on the issue of the role of Alumnus in the "educational game" and then was followed a moment of rest, in which participants had the opportunity to know each other better during a tour around Rome. After lunch at the Salesian Institute Pio XI, an intense afternoon took place in which GEX have heard, the delegate of the World Confederation of Past Pupils, Fr. José Pator Ramírez, who offered their greetings and encouragement to those present, the GEX Councillor for communication, Domenica Sapienza, speaking about "communication Strategies", the Confederal vicepresident GEX, Angel Gudiña, with a presentation entitled "Creation and management of GEX group" and the editor of the magazine Voci Fraterne, Valerio Martorana, who has developed a journalism workshop. This afternoon, was very dense due to the contents, but had the colophon with the poignant testimony of Caterina Chinnici, head of the Department of Juvenile Justice, from the Ministry of Justice and the daughter of Rocco Chinnici, an investigating judge murdered by the Mafia in 1983, her story and her experience have stimulated an intense debate among youth participants.

Sunday 23rd GEX from Italy have had the opportunity to hear Don Giovanni Russo on the topic "Youth and proclamation of the Gospel of life. Some bioethical issues", the delicate topics touched by the intervention have raised many questions and favoured an interesting exchange of views. This was followed by a greeting from the President of the World Confederation of the Past Pupils, Francesco Muceo. The morning's work ended with the intervention / testimony of Mgr. Lorenzo Leuzzi, director of the Pastoral Service for University and the vicar bishop of the diocese of Rome, who then presided the Mass in the basilica.

The moderator of the three days was Valerio Martorana. After lunch young people greeted until the next opportunity and making a date back in their Local Unions enriched by three days of training, meeting, sharing and awareness of not being alone, but part of a group that is growing together.
Formation Corner

AVAILABLE FORMATION TOPICS OF WORLD CONFEDERATION

Formation Commission coordinated by Councillor Isaac Túnez and mentored by World Delegate is elaborating a series of Formation Topics that we detail below:

- Topic I: Past Pupil
- Topic II: Association, Federation and Confederation
- Topic III: Our Mission
- Topic IV: Development of our Association

Topics are in translation phase to Italian and English and any help provided for its translation from native speakers or into French and portuguese will be appreciated.

GETTING READY FOR BICENTENNARY!

The programmed events will be developed mainly in Torino, Castelnouvo Don Bosco and Rome. They are the following, and placed in the following dates:

- 16 August 2014 Opening Bicentennary: Colle Don Bosco
- 28 September 2014: Missionary Expedition and delivery of cross: Torino
- 19-23 November 2014 International History Congress: Salesianum Rome
- 15-18 January 2015 Salesian Family Days: Salesianum Rome
- 19-21 March 2015 International Pedagogy Congress in UPS: Rome
- 21-25 May 2015 Encuentro de los Obispos Salesianos: Torino
- 06-09 August 2015 International Congress of Mary Help of the Christians: Torino
- 11-16 August 2015 SYM Don Bosco 2015: Torino and Colle Don Bosco
- 16 agosto 2015 Closure Bicentenary: Colle Don Bosco

3. Visit of Pope Francis

A letter of invitation has been sent to Pope Francis to organize a visit to Torino. Hereby comment the Archbishop on this visit: “We trust that in these circumstances Pope Francis will come to pray in front of Holy Shroud and honour Saint John Bosco, sealing an extraordinary year. Pope Francis has welcomed our invitation and the one of Salesians but there is still not a date confirmed.

Announcements

DATABASE OF NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL/REGIONAL LEADERS

From this Presidency we would like to be closer to your reality in the Association, both at national and provincial/regional level, with that purpose we kindly ask you to send us some contact data from your President and other referent people of your movement to reach them. We need the following data:

- Full name
- Mail address
- Email address
- Telephone number and cell number
- Language(s) for communication
- Birth date (to send you our compliments)

DIPLOMAS OF 25 AND 50 YEARS OF FIDELITY TO DON BOSCO!

World Confederation has available for all Local Unions and Federations diplomas of fidelity, that go together with the don Bosco button, that you can see below.

Its cost is of 10 € per diploma and button (including the expenditure costs to your local Union or Federation)

You can ask them writing to:
World Delegate – Fr. José Pastor (rjpastor@yahoo.com)
Vicepresident GEX – Ángel Gudiña (angelgudina@gmail.com)
In Memoriam
Tomasso Natale
(Secretario Confederale per 30 anni)

1 December 1926 – 11 March 2014

On my name and all the members of the General Council I extend you the condolences for the death of the dearest Cav. Tommaso Natale, a true model of Salesian Past Pupil, for its great love to Don Bosco, to the Congregation and the World Confederation of Past Pupils of Don Bosco in which served as Secretary General for over 30 years.

We remember him with inmense affection, esteem and recognition and we trust him to the Lord, that will host him and fulfill him with the Peace, Love and Joy and the New Life of the Risen Christ.

Mary Help of the Christian, to whom he was filial devote, takes him in front of the Father and takes him in the Salesian garden together with all saints of Salesian Family.

With my best feelings of esteem and appreciation, in Don Bosco

Fr Pascual Chávez V., sdb
IX Successor of Don Bosco

In Memoriam
D. Miguel González
(Founder DAMAS Salesianas)

Fr Miguel González García, SDB, died on Friday 14 March at the age of 86. He was founder of the Damas Salesianas (ADS), one of the groups of the Salesian Family. Fr Miguel was born on 27 April 1927 in Urdiales del Páramo in the Province of Leon in Spain. He spent his whole life in the service of God and neighbour, after the example of Don Bosco, father and teacher of the young.

Fr Miguel was sent to America to fulfil his missionary vocation and was ordained priest on 14 November 1954.

On 13 May 1968, the Association of Damas Salesianas was formally constituted. It is a lay non-profit Association, a private group of the faithful of canonical right, composed of Catholic lay women. Their work is to promote integral human development, with particular attention to women and young people as these were the weakest sectors of society in Venezuela in the sixties.

The Damas Salesianas received ecclesiastical recognition by decree of Cardinal José Ali Lebrun on 29 September 1988, and recognition as a group of the Salesian Family, granted by the Rector Major, Fr Egidio Viganò, on 29 December of the same year.

Don Miguel dedicated half a century of his life to social work. Today, the fruits of his work are visible in the 127 centres of Damas Salesianas in Venezuela, and other countries of America, from California to Patagonia, as well as in Spain and in the Philippines.