

Designed by Huyton Cooperators

SALESIAN COOPERATORS

U K PROVINCE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2003

**"The work of the Cooperators will extend to every country,
it will spread throughout Christianity... The hand of God
sustains it! The Cooperators will be the ones who foster
the Catholic spirit... You may think my idea is utopian, but
I stand by it nevertheless!"**

(Don Bosco, MB 18 161)

Vol. 1

No. 2

Congratulations Fr Tom!

Congratulations to Fr Tom Williams who has just been made Auxillary Bishop to Archbishop Kelly, Liverpool Archdiocese. Fr Tom has been Parish Priest in St Anthony's Parish and is the cousin of one of our Croxteth Cooperators—Margaret Ryan.

We wish him every success in his new post and keep him and his family in our prayers.

DON'T FORGET!!

Cooperators Retreat at Kendal

Fri 17—Sun 19 October	-	£63
Saturday only (packed lunch)	-	£10

Justice & Peace

Fr Merriman SDB has been given responsibility for raising awareness about justice & peace issues in the Province. He is giving a talk on the above topic at St Dominic's Parish on Friday 4th July at 7.00pm. All are welcome

BENE MERENTI AWARD

Congratulations to Anne Delaney, a member of the Salesian Co-operators in Cowley since 1979, has been involved with the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship in Oxford for over 30 years and has contributed hugely to the Fellowship, serving as Chairman or Secretary at various times and led the Fellowship on Pilgrimage to Lourdes for 15 years. She has shown truly great leadership and has been a great inspiration and support to the disabled and their families.

Anne has been whole hearted in her commitment to disabled people and their families. Now in her seventies, she continues to be involved by organising fundraising events, visiting our disabled people and is the familiar face of the Fellowship in the community. She continues this besides being a very active member of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Cowley and regularly attending Cooperators meetings. The Oxford Catholic Handicapped Fellowship, now in its 32nd year, thought it fitting to show their appreciation to Anne for her commitment and dedication.

On Saturday, 10th May, Anne received the Bene Merenti Award during a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley. Mass was concelebrated by Canon Tom Farrell (Episcopal Vicar for Oxfordshire), Fr Kieran Anderson SDB (Parish Priest) and Fr Dominic (Oratorian). Many members of the Fellowship were present at the Mass of Thanksgiving and the celebration which followed at the Mornese Centre, Elmthorpe Convent.

To commemorate her many years of dedication to the disabled and their families Fellowship members presented Ann with a special gift of a trip to Lourdes in July with the Cowley Parish.

Kath Pill, Cowley



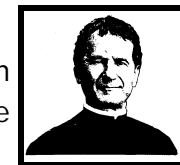
Visit of Rector Major at Bolton

A group of Merseyside Cooperators set off for a day to Thornleigh, Bolton to meet our new Rector Major - Don Pascual Chevez. A similar event was to be held in Chertsey on the following day.

We had our packed lunches and most of all - the SWEETS for the journey. We set off at 8.45am in our new mini-bus and arrived safely. On arrival we were welcomed with tea & biscuits and June, Vera & Christine, at the request of Fr Francis (our Provincial) assisted serving the refreshments. There was a large number of people consisting of SDBs, FMAs, Cooperators and other members of the Salesian family.

We were very impressed with Don Pascual as he is a very charismatic person. The theme of the visit was Vocations. He began his talk with his call to the priesthood. He is Mexican, one of twelve children (6 brothers and 6 sisters). At the age of 11 his mother was very ill and as he wanted a pair of 'rubber' shoes to play basket ball he decided to spend a day with her chatting in the hope he would get a pair. What he hadn't bargained for was while he was chatting to her, she confided in him that she prayed one of her sons would become a priest. Four days later she died and influenced by what she had told him he approached his teacher saying he would like to become a priest. So instead of gaining a pair of 'rubber' shoes he gained his vocation - God works in mysterious ways!!

The whole day was centred around the celebration of Mass with music provided by the Savio House Volunteers. A great time was had by all.



The BIG challenge Don Pascual left us was to be prepared to share our Salesian calling with others, particularly the young.

Vera Dring, Huyton

Fr George Celebrates 40 years in the Priesthood

On Saturday, March 29th Fr Robson celebrated 40 years as a Salesian priest, 14 of those years as Parish Priest in St Dominic's. It was attended by parishioners, his family, friends and members of the Salesian Family.



A great deal of preparation had gone into organising his celebration. A committee was set up consisting of parishioners, members of St Dominic's Club and Schools. The committee met monthly during the 12 months prior to the event.

The children of St Dominic's junior & infants school even designed their own special bookmark to commemorate the anniversary - they were distributed throughout the Parish.

Every effort had gone into making the day a success from arranging the Mass to the big celebrations in the Parish Club afterwards, even presenting Fr George with a "This is your Life".

Christine Mountaine, Huyton

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"Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

(Eph 4, 1-3)

REFLECTION

I feel each day as a co-operator, we are given the opportunity, to respond to the challenge to come and see Jesus. Our commitment to live out our 'Yes' is not always an easy one, as it often leads to another yes. But saying yes means that we choose the values that Jesus lived and died for.

Don Pascual commented, on how we must strive to grow and live in communion. Yes, as co-operators and as individuals, Jesus sets us free, so that each one of us would be a living sign of His Love in the world, building up the Kingdom.

I believe, that we are all the living bread, that nourishes and unites us as a Salesian family. No matter where you go the salesian spirit of joy and togetherness makes us one. Jesus life is working through each one of us, by our communion with God through prayer, and through our relationships with each other.

To grow and live in communion with each other is to be alive and active in our calling to be an apostle. Our cooperators I feel, give of their best to fulfil this calling in salesian joy, by visiting the sick and bereaved, those in hospital, they are ministers of the Eucharist, cleaning the church, spreading the Word of God by reading and sharing the scriptures with the young.

I agree with Don Pascal, in that we do not have to change our mission, we simply have to strengthen our communion with others and make our connections of school, family, community, the home of Love and deep communion.

Tracy McConnell, Croxteth