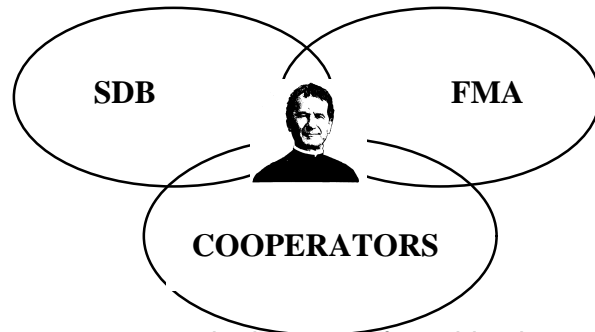


“Without Each Other - We are No Longer Ourselves”

Fr Martin Poulsom SDB



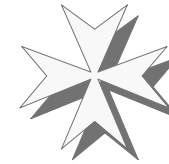
The above statement is the core of our identity as Salesians. The Salesian Identity Card was the theme of our Retreat weekend in October. The team who prepared the sessions for the visit of Don Pascual Chavez also organised the input for our retreat taking their inspiration from Don Pascual's talk. At his visitation he spoke of the importance of the Salesian Identity Card.

While we are fortunate to have many groups within our family the Identity card focussed on the three earliest groups formed by Don Bosco i.e. SDB's, FMA's and Cooperators. Of course Don Bosco is the centre of our family and together we follow his ideals and mission for young people. As was stated many times during the week-end "Unity is Strength".

Our retreat this year was in Brettagh Holt, Kendal. The welcome was brilliant and the week-end was very relaxing. The atmosphere was prayerful and there were opportunities for attending a variety of workshops or taking some quiet time. On Sat evening we had our usual social with entertainment from the floor! When we come together as a family it is always a very special time and great to catch up with 'old' friends.

Huyton Cooperators

HOLIDAY IN MALTA



During the summer my husband and I decided to have a holiday in Malta and stayed in a place called Sliema. The hotel was on the front overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. We went for a walk to do a bit of sight-seeing and came across St John Bosco Street. To my surprise Malta has a large Salesian Community, consisting of a church, school, sisters and offices.

After Mass I spoke to Fr Joe Cini SDB who was very friendly. I also met one of the cooperators who was helping in the church. The salesian school is called St Patrick's. It is a very large school and as well as a day school it is also a home to many boys where there has been family breakdown. These boys receive the support of the salesian family when they are most vulnerable. They have a thriving Youth Club and much good work is done in Malta.



If I return to Malta in the future I will most certainly be visiting the Community again.

Vera Dring (Huyton)



CRAFT EVENING ON MERSEYSIDE

Following our tradition, MERSEYSIDE Cooperators got together on 3 November for our annual Craft Evening. The evening was held in St Dominic's meeting room. This year our activity was to make Christmas Cards because we were so bad at sewing last year! Tess arrived earlier to lay out all the materials.



Both Tess and Tracy gave a demonstration of making a card. For a small donation we were each given our own pack to use our artistic talents (hee hee!). This was a real laugh as a number of us are not at all artistic. Good job Fr George didn't have his camera - he was too busy making his own cards. He was that enthusiastic at his own hidden talents he ended up with glitter & glue on his trousers!! He made eight cards on the night so watch out you may receive one in the post.

During the evening we were supplied with plenty of drinks and goodies to keep us going. We had our usual raffle with plenty of prizes. Winners were drawn at the end of the night and 'Vera' must be a lucky name! Vera Dring won three prizes following her namesake Vera Sefton who won three raffle prizes at the Cooperators Retreat. As a result several of us have changed our name by deed poll to Vera!



As always the money raised on the evening will be



“We’ve Been To See The Queen!”

At least Margaret & Henry Bell, Salesian Cooperators from Easterhouse, and recipients of the Bene Merente, have!

The Diocese of Motherwell arranged for the invitation to attend the Garden Party at Holyrood Palace and so, decked out in the finest regalia Margaret (complete with stunning hat) & Henry set out on 3rd July for Edinburgh.

Fr Michael O’Meara & Sr Eileen accompanied them and the journey went without a hitch, even if Fr Michael jumped out at a red light to check from another gentleman with DP on his car if we were on the right road. From there we travelled behind his Jag! It was by this time impossible to get lost since the high fashion brigade were all travelling in the same direction, on foot as well as car. The park at the foot of Arthur’s Seat was gradually filling up. As we walked towards the gates, Fr Michael pointed out landmarks so we would find his car again!! Margaret and Henry passed through the security with tickets (and passports!) and entered the gates leaving Sr Eileen & Fr Michael to find a coffee shop along the Royal Mile past the Parliament building site. (In fact a visit to the LUXURY “Event-a-Loo” made the afternoon for them - courtesy of a policeman!). As the park is public many people were jogging and picnicing on the hillside or climbing to the top where they were able to peep at those “enjoying” a dreadful cup of tea at the Party. (Margaret’s description). Margaret & Henry enjoyed the experience, wandering around the grounds. They caught sight of the Queen greeting individuals and dignitaries - some in national costume.

It was a ‘splendiferous’ occasion and people were relaxed and smiling, though for many ladies the first act on coming back through the gates was to take off their shoes and enjoy the cool grass! Waiting for Henry & Margaret to reappear Sr Eileen had a good time chatting with people and being mistaken for a ‘guest’. We set off back to Glasgow completing the evening with a meal and a better drink than tea!

Congratulations to Margaret & Henry on this special occasion. May the good Lord and Mary Help of Christians be close to you and reward you for your dedication to the Church and our Salesian Family.

What shall we give, you and I,
to him who thirsts for us?
A sweet cooling drink -
we call it love -
to quench the thirst
of him who first loved us.

Cardinal Basil Hume



CAN YOU HELP?

The Salesian Project VIDES is searching for sponsors to help secure funding to enable them to continue their valuable work. The aim of the project is to train young adults 16-30 offering them opportunities to do voluntary work with the marginalised in a Salesian way. They have relied on funding and grants which are due to finish shortly. If you can help please contact Connie Cameron FMA (tel: 0151 548 5309)

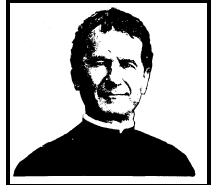


Wear a smile
on your face,
keep a laugh in your heart,
let your lips bubble
over with song
'Twill lighten
your load
as you travel
life's road
And help some other
sinner along.

Pilgrimage to Turin

A small group from St Doms: Fr George, Eileen, Vera and June set off for Turin on Sat 13th Sept. On inspection of the passports we were a little worried about Vera's photo as she looked like a character from 'Cell Block H'. It gave us a good laugh.

We stayed in **Valdocco** where Don Bosco developed his Oratory and founded the Salesian Order. Fr Luigi Bassett and the other Salesians made us very welcome and we had 4 star treatment throughout our stay. The setting at Valdocco was beautiful with lovely flowers and trees everywhere. Whilst there, Fr George acted as a 'good' guide in the many places we visited. The Basilica was very beautiful. Don Bosco had it built in honour of Mary Help of Christians, as he entrusted his work to her care. While there we met up with Frs Pat and Albert who were celebrating Fr Pat's Golden Jubilee. In the city of **Turin** we were able to follow the footsteps of Don Bosco from the sacristy of St Francis of Assisi church where Don Bosco began his work on December 8th 1841, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the famous meeting with Bartholomew Garelli, through the various places where he ran his Oratory or Youth Centre until he arrived in Valdocco on Easter Sunday, April 12th 1846. We visited the Church of the Consolata where he and his mother often prayed. We also visited the Cathedral of the Holy Shroud.



We travelled out to **Colle Don Bosco**, where John Bosco was born and grew up under the care of his mother, Mamma Margaret. We went to the little house where he lived as a boy and saw the room famous for the dream he had at the age of 9 and where his family lived. Now the hill is crowned with a magnificent Basilica or Temple of Don Bosco. We spent a day in the historic city of **Chieri** where Don Bosco spent ten years finishing his education and training at the seminary. We hope we were able to grow a little in our Salesian experience and way of life. We certainly enjoyed ourselves in true Salesian style!

June & Vera (St Doms)