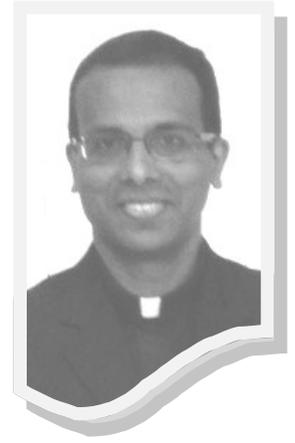




From the Pastor



The Salesian Sisters—Part I: History

The Salesian Sisters, officially known as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians—*Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice (FMA)*—is a religious community of women founded by St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello on August 5, 1872 in Mornese, Italy. Their mission is to provide Christian education and formation to the young.

In 1908, the first Salesian Sisters arrived in the United States and settled in Paterson, New Jersey. From there, Salesian youth and outreach programs spread to Canada and throughout New England, as well as other parts of the country, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. In 1987, the province was divided into the Eastern and Western provinces.

The Salesian youth works and outreach programs in Louisiana, Texas, and California formed Mary Immaculate Province, the Western Province of the Salesian Sisters, with its center in San Antonio, Texas. In 1993, the provincial house was constructed and serves as the administrative headquarters for the Western Province, as a retreat and spirituality center, and a meeting and workshop venue. In 2002, the Salesian Sisters of the Western Province began ministries in Colorado. I am very excited that the Salesian Sisters will begin their first community in the Northwest at St. Francis in Bend. We are indeed blessed.

Their ministries of the Western Province include early childhood programs, elementary and secondary education, religious education centers, before- and after-school programs, youth ministry, adult education, outreach programs for poor and disadvantaged women and children, boys' and girls' clubs, a lay young adult volunteer program, and summer camps.

Today, there are about 100 Sisters in the Western Province involved in ministries in 12 different communities. Whether in 1908 or today, the Sisters' mission continues in the Western United States, impacting the lives of children and youth in the spirit and charism of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello. The Salesian Sisters are the largest female religious order in the world and can be found in 93 nations across six continents with more than 15,000 nuns.

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Happy Fathers' Day!

Fatherhood is important to a child's spiritual well-being. Take the time to be a father who is involved in the faith life of your children. **"If Dads take faith in God seriously, then the message to their children is that God should be taken seriously."**—*Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix*

—Fr. Jose Thomas