



ICSS NEWSLETTER VOL. 1. FALL 1997

[THIS IS THE INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SALESIAN STUDIES (ICSS) OF THE OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO DISSEMINATE ON A GLOBAL SCALE INFORMATION DEALING WITH SALESIAN STUDIES (ST. FRANCIS DE SALES; ST. JANE DE CHANTAL; FR. BRISSON, THE FOUNDER OF THE OBLATES,;THE OBLATES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES,;THE OBLATE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES; THE VISITATION OF HOLY MARY AND OTHER RELIGIOUS AND LAY INSTITUTES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY.]

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ICSS Members. The General Council has appointed for a three-year term Fr. Michel Tournade of the French Province to replace Fr. Jean Brachet as the representative of the French-speaking and Italian-speaking provinces and has reappointed Fr. Herbert Winklehner of the South German-Austrian Province for another three-year term.

Website. In conjunction with Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, the ICSS has maintained a website on Salesian Studies since the fall of 1995. This site contains general information about the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales; the various Salesian resources such the De Sales Resource Center along with its catalogue of Salesian materials, the De Sales Center for Lay Spirituality, the Verlag Franz von Sales with a list of its publications in German under the auspices of the South German-Austrian Province; conferences/seminars. It also has the most updated bibliography of English translations of the works of St. Francis de Sales and works in English on our saint compiled by the Salesian of Don Bosco, Fr. Joseph Boenzi. For those who have a telnet connection, the entire on-line catalog of the Trexler Library of Allentown College may be browsed, especially its excellent Salesian collection. The site has several papers on-line on various Salesian topics. There are also some interesting links to other Catholic and Salesian resources. The ICSS is interested in linking this page with other home pages maintained by the various provinces/regions of the Oblates when these become available. One of the recent additions to this site is the Fall 1997 syllabus for a course on Salesian Spirituality taught by Fr. Pocetto at Allentown College.

In the very near future, the ICSS plans to put on-line the Annecy edition of the *Introduction to the Devout Life* recently scanned by Fr. Jean Gayet of the French Province and the German translation of this work originally translated by Fr. Franz Reisinger and published by the South German-Austrian Province. This should facilitate the search for specific information in this work in these two languages. The ICSS is also planning to have a listserv discussion group on Salesian Studies added to this home page and is soliciting topics for this discussion group as well as email addresses of those who wish to subscribe to this list.

The website can be accessed at
<<http://www.allencol.edu/salesian/salesian.html>>.

ICSS Grants. Upon the recommendation of the ICSS, the General Council awarded grants this summer to three Oblates. Fr. Mc Gilvray was awarded a grant of \$1, 250 dollars, which was matched by the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, to defray the costs of developing a course on the *Introduction to a Devout Life*, combining videos depicting places, material and graphics concerning the life of St. Francis de Sales that are suitable for delivering the course via the Internet. Fr. Joseph Power received a \$1,000 grant to help pay for publishing the papers of the very successful international seminar on "The Heart of Jesus from Francis de Sales to Margaret Mary, " held in Annecy in September, 1996. The eight participants and their topics were as follows:

Wendy Wright (Creighton University): "Margaret Mary Alacoque and the Exchange

of Human and Divine Hearts: The Larger Context"

Susanne Kjeksus-Koch (Oslo, Norway): "Saint Francis de Sales and the Sacred Heart: The Dynamics of Love"

Hélène Bordes (Limoges, France) and Jean-Marie Le Maire (Bordeaux, France):

"Visitandine Prayer and the Sources of St. Margaret Mary"

James F. Cryan, OSFS (Provincial: Toldeo-Detroit): "The Heart of Jesus in Seventeenth Century English Writing"

Joseph Chorpenning, OSFS (St. Joseph Univ.) "Union with the Gentle and Humble Heart of Jesus: a Theme of St. Francis de Sales' Theology of the Holy Family"

Michael McGrath, OSFS (artist, Philadelphia): "An Artist's Encounter with the Sacred Heart of Jesus"

Joseph F. Power, OSFS (Dir. De Sales Resource Center) "Heart Imagery, Then and Now"

The third award of approximately \$2,230 was made to Fr. Prinz of the South German-Austrian Province to help defray publication costs of the 30th anniversary edition of the *Jahrbuch für salesianische studien* .

French Province: As noted above Fr. Jean Gayet, OSFS, Provincial, has scanned the Annecy edition of the *l'Introduction à la vie dévote* as well as the *Traité de l'amour de Dieu*.. As soon as some technical difficulties have been solved, the ICSS plans to make them available on-line on its home page. He has also made available to the ICSS the bibliographical information on the Salesian collection formerly housed at the Scholasticate at Craponne as well as a list of audio-cassettes of the various presentations given at the Journées salésiennes, which for many years was organized by Fr. L'Honoré. Fr. Gayet brings to our attention a book in French dealing with St. Francis de Sales and poverty by Geneviève Pochat. The title is FRANÇOIS DE SALES ET LA PAUVRETÉ, Editions SOS, 106, rue du Bac, 75007, Paris, 1988. Régis Crolard wrote the script and directed a video entitle FRANÇOIS DE SALES: SAINT ET HOMME D'ACUTALITÉ, 1994. The blurb on the cover reads as follows: François de Sales va apporter une vision nouvelle de l'identité profonde de

l'homme et des relations humaines, il va rétablir la paix entre la science and la foi et le respect de l'autonomie des cultures.. ." Fr. Michel Tournade. OSFS is one of the persons interivewed on the tape.

South German-Austrian Province: Congratulations to this Province for having published under the auspices of the *Arbeitsgemeinschaft für salesiansiche studien* the *Jahrbuch* for 30 consecutive years - quite a feat in the very precarious world of scholarly publications. To commemorate this event, it has published an excellent 30-year index with the title *Jahrbuch für salesianische studien. Register zu Band 1-30 (1963-1997)* and a foreword by Fr. Gottfried Prinz, OSFS. This index may be accessed on the ICSS Salesian Studies Home page noted above. A hard copy may be purchased from the Verlag Franz von Sales, Rosenthal 1 - Postach 1361, D - 85067 Eichstätt, Germany.

Brazil-South America Region: Fr. Larry van der Raadt reports that the region has a publication called "Viver Jesus" (Live Jesus) edited by the scholastics. Each issue has an article on Salesian spirituality written in a popular vein by the Scholastic Director. It appears four times a year and has a circulation of about 1,200. Fr. van der Raadt, a true polyglot who is adept at Portuguese, Spanish, German, French, English in addition to his native Dutch, has also supplied information on a host of Salesian writings that have been translated into Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese. Some of the most recent ones are :

* Original: *Sainte Marguerite-Marie et le message du Coeur de Jésus*, éditions Fleurus , Paris.

Translation: (Portuguese) *Santa Maria e a mensagem do Coração de Jesus*, trans. Ir. Tatiana Sjasinf, Ordem da Visitação de Santa Maria, Mosteiro da Visitação, Rua De Inácia UchIoa, 208, Vila Marianan, CEP 04110, São Paulo, SP, Brasil, 1990

* Original: *Praying the Rosary with St. Francis de Sales*.

Translation: *Rezando o Rosário com S. Francisco de Sales*, trans. L.J.

van der Raadt, OSFS, Livraria Editora Pe. Reus, Rua Duque

de Caxias, 805 Caixa Poastal, 285-9001-970, Brazil, 1997

* Original: Sister Joanna Marie Wenzel, V.H.M. *In the Midst of the World*, Sisters of the Visitation, Ridge Blvd. at 89th St., Brookly, NY, 1985

Translation: (Portuguese) *No Meio do Mundo - Um Apelo À Santidade*,

trans. L.J. van der Raadt, OSFS, Edições Loyola, Rua 1822,

Iprianga, 04216, São Paulo, SP, Brasil, 1989

Translation: (Spanish) *En el Medio del Mundo - Um Limado a la Santida*, trans. Libertad Lopez, Maria Paz Pitaluga, Editorial Claretiana,

Lima 1360 -1138, Buenos Aires, Argentinian, 1992

* Original: *Traité de l'Amour de Dieu*, Annecy edition

Translation (Spanish) *Tratado del Amor de Dios - San Francisco de Sales*,

trans. Francisco de la Hoz, SDB, Biblioteca de Autores Christianos, Do

Ramon de la Cruz, 57, Madrid, Espana, 1995.

South Africa Namibia Regions: Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS, a member of the South German-Austrian Province, will give a retreat to Oblates of these regions in November. His talks will center around St. Francis de Sales' vision of the virtues.

Toledo-Detroit Province: Fr. Joseph Power with the collaboration of Sisters Mary Paula, VHM, and Mary Grace, VHM, conducted the 15th annual Salesian Conference at Rosemont College in Philadelphia on July 31-Aug. 3. This year's theme was "Salesian Spirituality: Room, With A View." There were over 150 religious and lay people in attendance. The presentations will be published in the next issue of *Salesian Living Heritage*. Video and audio tapes of the talks are available through the De Sales Resource Center. - Fr. John Graden. OSFS, has recently recorded *Peace of Mind: Spiritual Counsel from Francis de Sales*. The audio-cassette is available from Oblates of St. Francis, WORD Consultants, 2056 Parkwood Ave., Toledo, OH 43620-1616.

India Region: Fr. John Sankarathil, OSFS, our first Indian Oblate priest, is working on a project to publish articles on Salesian studies either in book form or as a special periodical for an Indian audience. He is soliciting either unpublished or previously published articles. Those who wish to assist him should contact Fr. Pocetto. A journalist and Hindu of the Brahmin caste,

Yogeesh, has written a play about St. Francis de Sales in Kannada, the language of the state of Karnataka where our mission is located. He is in the process of translating this play into English and is also very much interested in writing a play about St. Jane. Bro. Michael McGrath, OSFS, treated the novices and scholastics to talks on Salesian Spirituality and Art. While at the mission this past spring, he also did a beautiful painting of Sts. Francis and Jane in traditional Indian dress. This painting is available through Bee Still Studio, P.O. Box 71, Flourtown, PA, 19031, attn: Bro. Robert Drelich, OSFS. Shortly after "Mickey's" departure, Fr. Pocetto arrived to give a short course on Salesian Spirituality to about 12 postulants and novices, a 5-day retreat on Salesian themes to 8 scholastics and two conferences on Salesian spirituality to about 40 Daughters of St. Francis de Sales.

Wilmington-Philadelphia Province: There are a host of projects and activities in this Province.

* The Province's **Salesian Spirituality Commission** was reconstituted under the leadership of the new Salesian Advisor, Fr. Thomas Dailey, OSFS, to manage and serve as a clearinghouse for the various efforts in the dissemination of the Salesian charism. More specifically, these efforts include: academic research, Oblate formation, Oblate continuing education, Province development, the De Sales (retreat) Center, and the De Sales Center for Lay Spirituality.

* **De Sales Center for Lay Spirituality** has recently published its first newsletter in its new home in what was formerly the De Sales School of Theology. The letter lists the numerous presentations on Salesian Spirituality given to parishes, schools, retreat centers by the Director, Bro. Edward Ogden, OSFS, ably assisted by other Oblates and lay people. The Center's mission is to identify and empower "leaders who will assimilate the Salesian dimension of our Catholic heritage while ministering in the contemporary church and the world." The newsletter contains an insert of an excellent review entitled "Breathing Friendship" by Fr. Joseph Chorpenning, OSFS, of Terrence A. McGoldrick's *The Sweet and Gentle Struggle: Francis de Sales on the Necessity of Spiritual Friendship*. This book is available through the De Sales Resource Center, 4421 Lower River Rd., Stelle Niagara, NY 14144.

* **Projects, Research, Publication and Courses:**

- Fr. Don Heet, OSFS, is completing his doctoral project -- a hypermedia presentation of part II of the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and expects to defend his project for the D. Min. at the Catholic University of America in January, 1997. He plans to extend this project so that it can readily be used as a teaching tool.

- St. Joseph's University Press (5600 City Line Ave., Phila., PA, 19131--1395) under the directorship of Fr. Joseph Chorpenning, OSFS, has recently published *A Man to Heal Differences: Essays and Talks on St. Francis de Sales* by Elizabeth Stopp with a preface by Fr. Joseph Power, OSFS.

- Fr. Dailey's book on *Praying with Francis de Sales* will be published this fall by St. Mary's Press. He has also translated into English a sermon of St. Francis de Sales on the Feast of the Transfiguration. This brochure is published by the Salesian Spirituality Commission under a new series called *The Salesian Flowers* collection. This sermon is available on-line on the ICSS Salesian Studies Home Page.

- The *De Sales World*, the newsletter of the Province is edited by Fr. Richard DeLillio, OSFS, Director of Development. In each issue, there is a column written by Fr. DeLillio called "A Moment With Francis de Sales." The title of the most recent column is "Life is a Risky Business."

- Fr. Rober McGilvary, OSFS, has completed a series of video tapes based on Ravier's *Sage and Saint* and the *Introduction to a Devout Life*. This project has been partially funded by the ICSS.

- The *Wisdom Figures* project - videotaping of interviews of the recollections of senior Oblates - is currently under the direction of Fr. Francis Hanlon, OSFS.

- Bro. Michael McGrath is working on a series of drawings of the life of Sts. Francis and Jane for a meditation book. He also plans to make them available in audio-visual form (slides, audio and videotapes, CD-Rom)

- Through an arrangement with the Washington Theological Union, graduate courses in Salesian Spirituality will be offered on a yearly basis.

- Fr. Pocetto, OSFS, is currently teaching an undergraduate course on Salesian Spirituality at Allentown College. The syllabus may be viewed on the ICSS Salesian Studies Home Page.

- As noted above, the Province through the efforts of Fr. Joseph Jocco, OSFS, Vocation Director, has a home page on the Web. It can be viewed by pointing your browser to: <http://www.Oblates.org>.

- The inaugural Professor R. Wayne Kraft Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Wendy Wright on Patrons' Day at Allentown College. Her topic was "Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal and the Ministry of Love."

Rare Book Acquisition. The first English translation of the *Treatise on the Love of God* by Miles Carr in 1630 has been acquired by Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales. The ICSS, in conjunction with the College's Librarian, is looking for a safe way to have the book scanned and made available on the ICSS Home Page.

Generalate

Oblate Archives:

Fr. Roger Balducelli, OSFS, Archivist of the Congregation and former Superior General, has done a marvelous piece of work in re-organizing the Congregation's archives located in Rome. Working meticulously and in his customary scholarly fashion with these precious, primary sources; he has edited and published for distribution within the Congregation a number of very valuable documents. Among the most recent are: the letters and the billets of Mother Mary de Sales Chappuis as well as *Mother Marie de Sales Chappuis: Cahier de Fribourg*, Introduction and Original Text, 1992. In consultation with Fr. Roger, the ICSS will turn its attention to deciding the best way to make these

documents available to the Oblates. The Congregation owes him an immense debt of gratitude for making it possible for its members to understand better the origins and history of the Oblates.

Dissertations and Research Notes:

* Nancy Bowden has published her doctoral thesis entitled, "MA TRES CHERE FILLE": THE SPIRITUALITY OF FRANÇOIS DE SALES AND JEANNE DE CHANTAL AND THE ENABLEMENT OF WOMEN . The abstract reads: "This study is an exploration of the enabling qualities and effects of Salesian spirituality on the lives of women. . . . This project reconstructs the historical contexts within which Salesianism empowered women, not primarily in economic, political or social areas but in areas which were meaningful to the personal, relational and spiritual spheres of human existence." Available in microform from University Microfilms.

* Anthony Lopresti is working on the topic Our Human love for God in St. Francis de Sales for the Ph.D. in Theology at Boston College.

Francis de Sales and Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the title of the dissertation of Susanne Kjekshus Koch completed in 1996 for the degree Can.Philol. (= to a Master's plus) at the University of Oslo, Norway. Susanne is planning to go on for a doctorate and do another thesis in Salesian spirituality. Her email address is: Koch@kuf.dep.telemax.no.

* Fr. René Champagne, S.J., has just completed a manuscript on *François de Sales et la Passion de l'autre*. He hopes to have it published shortly. He resides at Centre de Spiritualité, 2370, rue Nicholas-Pine, Ste-Foy, Québec, G1V 416 Canada.

Vistation Sisters

Sr. Mary Paula, VHM, reports that Vistation sisters of St. Louis held 8 evening sessions on Salesian spirituality each semester of last year for parents and interested adults with great success and are planning to repeat the series. Sr. Paula herself did an introductory course on Salesian spirituality this past summer to a small group. Sr. Peronne Marie, VHM, is continuing her work on the 17th century *l'Année Sainte*. Sr. Mary Pat Burns, VHM, archivist of the Annecy monastery, has written a lovely essay on the pardons of Jane de Chantal in French and intends to translate it into English.

Salesians of Don Bosco

The *Journal of Salesian Studies* published by the Institute of Salesian Studies at Berkeley, CA has an article in the Fall 1996 issue on Francis de Sales' use of imagery by Fr. Eunan McDonnell, SDB, entitled, "Salesian Imaging of God's Love Without Equal." The article deals with the saint's "intention to arouse us through the use of imagery to evoke a response to the love of God." Fr. McDonnell has also published an article on Salesian prayer, which the ICSS hopes to make available on-line. Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB, one of the prime movers among the Salesians to do more research in Sts. Jane and Francis, states that this *Journal* plans to have at least one article on Salesian spirituality in each issue. Last fall at the University of Berkeley there was a weekend Seminar on Salesian Spirituality, in which Fr. Boenzi participated along with 40 others from several European countries. They hope to come up with a dictionary on Salesian spirituality. The "acts" will be published in the near future. Fr. Boenzi also taught a course on "The Spirituality of Francis de Sales and his Influence on St. John Bosco" at the Institute of Salesian Studies in Berkeley, CA.

Retreat Note:

Fr. Jay Harrington, OP, Chaplain of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of St. Francis de Sales gave a retreat this year to the area members on "Evangelism and St. Francis de Sales."

This newsletter and future newsletters can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://www.allencol.edu/salesian/salesian.html>. Suggestions for improving this newsletter and information for future issues may be sent to A. Pocetto via email: atp0@email.allencol.edu or by Fax: (610)282-2059 or by snail mail at Allentown College, 2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034-9568, USA.