



ICSS Newsletter

ICSS

Salesian Studies Worldwide

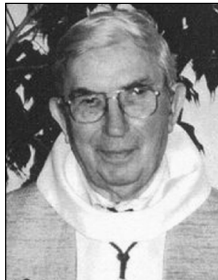
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A Double Tribute

The ICSS pays special tribute to two recently deceased Oblates who have been in the forefront of zealously, creatively and tirelessly promoting Salesian spirituality — Fr. Henry L'Honoré of the French Province and Fr. Joseph Power of the Toledo-Detroit Province. We are indebted to Fr. Jean Gayet, member of the ICSS and his fellow French Oblate, for supplying the information on Fr. L'Honoré and to Dr. Wendy Wright for her beautifully moving eulogy at Fr. Power's funeral Mass.

Fr. Henry L'Honoré, OSFS

Fr. L'Honoré has to rank as one of the most committed Oblates in making St. Francis de Sales known and loved. Born in the Calvados region of the Province of Normandy in 1917, Fr. L'Honoré knew hardship and poverty firsthand. His early schooling was in his native village where he was also tutored in Latin by his pastor. The latter sent him to Paris to study, but because of poor health a Visitandine nun of the Vaugirard monastery suggested to his mother that Henry be sent to the school of St. Michel newly opened in Annecy by the Oblates of St. Francis



de Sales. It was there that he fell in love with the Oblates and with St. Francis de Sales.

After he earned his bachelor's degree, he made his novitiate at Marin and then his first profession of vows in 1938. His religious formation was interrupted by compulsory military service, where he experienced fighting firsthand in World War II. He later completed his theological studies at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. In the course of his priestly and religious life, he held many positions — teacher, pastor, treasurer, chaplain.

He liked to say "A Normand by birth, I became a Salesian Savoyard through and through." He had a many-faceted personality with a deeply ingrained sense of duty and a boundless energy in serving others, following the example of his beloved model, St. Francis de Sales.

But above all, we admire his unfailing attachment to St. Francis de Sales, his ardent zeal to know our saint better so as to make him better known. At Fribourg, he "devoured" the saint's writings. Throughout his life he was always on the lookout for new discoveries dealing with the saint's life and teaching.

Fr. L'Honoré began his Salesian "career" in 1946 with an article in the periodical *Ecclesia*. In 1948, he frequented *l'Académie Chablaisienne de*

Thonon along with Henri Baud. In the 1950's, Fr. Reisinger, OSFS, of the Austrian Province gave over to Fr. L'Honoré the leadership of the "*Journées salésiennes*" which he founded in the Congregation of the Oblates to study St. Francis de Sales and to make him known. Fr. L'Honoré put all of his energy into it and extended its influence to an international audience. He organized 40 of these annual conferences! The one of 1967 had an exceptional importance on the occasion of the 400th anniversary celebration of the birth of St. Francis de Sales. The 13th volume of the *Mémoires et Document de l'Académie Salésienne* pays due tribute to the work and the dedication of Fr. L'Honoré, successor to Fr. Reisinger as the organizer of the *Journées Salésiennes*.

He belonged to a number of academies, and, in particular, was an active member since 1952 of the *Académie Florimontane*, which St. Francis de Sales had originally founded in 1606 at Annecy with his friend Antoine Favre. In 1970, he was named as editor of the *Annales Salésiennes*, a periodical founded in 1888 by the Oblates.

In 1998, Fr. L'Honoré entrusted the carrying out of the mission of the *Journées Salésiennes* to the Association "*Recherches et Etudes Salésiennes*" (RES) founded by Fr. André Brix, OSFS, under the leadership of Dr. Hélène Bordes. The latter has taken up the torch and continues the *Journées*

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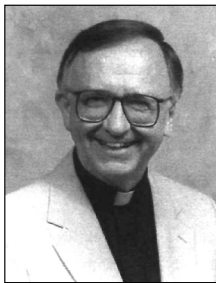
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Salésiennes under the title of “*Echanges Salésiens*,” being sensitive to the Oblates’ “paternity” of the *Journées Salésiennes*. The Oblates are profoundly grateful to her for continuing this work.

Our Fr. L’Honoré has passed on to the place where he will be surrounded by many friends of his beloved St. Francis de Sales.

Fr. Joseph Power, OSFS — Eulogy Given By Dr. Wendy Wright

“Joe Power was a consummate friend, with all the rich Salesian resonance of that word, friend. He not only knew but acted on the truth that deep in each human heart is the ache for God. That ache is met most surely between people who love each other deeply. Heart to heart. This church (and well beyond the church) is crowded with those who loved and were loved by Joe as friends, heart to heart. Joe knew and taught us that each person is like no other and he met each of us with his ready love and his willingness to receive the gift of who we are.



Joe was a gracious shepherd. He was the shepherd of a whole flock of people drawn to the beauty of the Salesian spiritual family including Oblate fathers, Visitandines and other vowed members. But especially was he a shepherd for lay people – the Daughters and the Society of Francis de Sales and others of us he liked to call “unaffiliated Salesians.” He founded and shepherded the annual spirituality conference which these past twenty years has been so joyful and sustaining and which has encouraged so many to do little things with great love.

Joe “lived Jesus” so faithfully. He especially had a heart that, like Jesus

whom he so loved, was gentle and humble. That ever so slightly diffident yet wonderfully warm and welcoming smile that was “so Joe,” is seen so unmistakably in all the photos family and friends brought to the wake and the funeral. That smile invited us all into his quiet, gentle presence. Joe’s gentle heart was pliable too, capable of growth and change. Over the years Joe’s love of Francis de Sales grew to include Jane de Chantal and her past and present daughters, even Margaret Mary Alacoque. It continued to grow to include the whole of the heritage of the extended Salesian family in all its variety. Our gentle Joe was for so many of us the embodiment, the living witness, of the Salesian charisma.

For all of his gentleness, Joe lived with great but quiet passion. Joe loved God’s astonishing creation. Certainly he was the Niagara area’s best promoter of the Falls. And he was a tireless defender of the environment through his efforts on behalf of the Love Canal. He had a passion for the church, he loved her dynamism and he engaged in her intellectual debates through his work on Jacques Maritain.

Joe was passionate about his family, on whom he lavished attention. And he was passionate about his Brothers in the Oblate community, being an active participant in the order’s life and governance all the while gently but persistently encouraging his Brothers to more deeply explore their particular Salesian charisma — to truly have the heart of Jesus.

Joe was even passionate in his generosity. In the hospital, before he began to decline, Joe was planning how he could arrange things at the church at Stella so he could continue to say mass for the Franciscan Sisters whom he so cherished. And to anyone who showed a scholarly interest in Francis de Sales or Jane de Chantal, Joe was an incomparable mentor, pouring through musty tomes, translating fragments, searching bibliographies, organizing seminars, sharing his wisdom, eager to learn more. His contri-

butions to Salesian scholarship both bear his own name and are hidden under the names of a long, long list of others.

Joe lived gracefully between what he, following Saint Francis, called “the two wills of God.” With untiring persistence he pursued what he believed was God’s signified will – the De Sales Resource Center. Yet I believe that it was not just the Center he loved but his sense that through the Center God’s own desire to draw people closer was being realized. Yet Joe knew that the full expression of God’s will is much beyond our ability to grasp. And he loved that too.

Several of you have mentioned how fitting is that Joe rounded out his life with us on the birth date of Saint Jane and on the eve of Saint Francis’ feast day, those holy ones whose vision he had captured. They, like Joe, lived passionately into that ache for God. And Joe, like them, drew so many others — heart to heart — into God’s loving embrace.

We will all miss him terribly. But I think it is because of him that we can gather (both in person and joined with so many others in prayer) and genuinely recognize ourselves as a family. What a gift he has been.”

Sex-Scandals: A Salesian Perspective

Fr. Roger Landry tackled in a sermon the difficult subject of the sex-scandals caused by priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. Among a number of thoughtful observations, he recommended that we face these scandals the way that St. Francis de Sales exhorts us.

“Once, St. Francis de Sales was asked to address the situation of the scandal caused by some of his brother priests during the 1500s and 1600s. What he said is as important for us today as it was for his listeners then.

“He stated, ‘Those who commit these types of scandals are guilty of the spiritual equivalent of murder,’ destroying

other people's faith in God by their terrible example. But then he warned his listeners, 'But I'm here among you to prevent something far worse for you. While those who give scandal are guilty of the spiritual equivalent of murder, those who take scandal — who allow scandals to destroy their faith — are guilty of spiritual suicide.'

"They're guilty, he said, of cutting off their life with Christ, abandoning the source of life in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He went among the people in Switzerland trying to prevent their committing spiritual suicide on account of the scandals. I'm here to preach the same thing to you." (As reported by Zenit news agency).

France

La Lettre RES of l'Association Recherches et Etudes Salésiens, no. 7, edited by Dr. Hélène Bordes (email: bordeshelene@wanadoo.fr) contains the following: (1) A schema of the *Treatise on the Love of God* developed by André Brix, OSFS; (2) an article by Dr. Hélène Bordes, "Saint François de Sales nous incite au combat spirituel"; (3) another section of Fr. Michel Tournade's, OSFS, doctoral thesis, "La nature dans l'oeuvre de François de Sales;" (4) Marie Adang, "Saint François de Sales et la Bible;" (5) a summary of Philippe Le Gros' doctoral thesis, "L'imaginaire de l'écriture chez François de Sales: les représentations visuelles dans l'Introduction à la vie dévote et le Traité de l'amour de Dieu;" and (6) the French version of the 8th issue of the ICSS Newsletter translated by Fr. Jean Gayet, OSFS.

The Association minutes for 12 July 2000 note the following events, presentations and studies: (1) The Oblate Sisters made a presentation on Salesian spirituality at a formation meeting held at the Centre Bernard Clairvaux in Troyes, (2) Fr. Serrant gave a conference to the Priests of St. Francis de Sales in Avranches on St. Francis de Sales' comportment vis-à-vis the Calvinists, (3) Mlle. Rio chaired a Salesian session on "God the Father,"

Fr. Michel Tournade, OSFS, meets monthly with a group of young men and women students to comment on and discuss his book, *Un Monde à aimer*; Philippe Le Gros gave two presentations — one at the Université de Haute Alsace and another at its School of Theology on "The Psalms and St. Francis de Sales;" Mme Tuffier is pursuing a DEA in literature on St. Francis de Sales and the "Spiritualité de l'instant présent" (the Spirituality of the Present Moment); Mme. Delahaye and Dr. Hélène Bordes gave a presentation at the Collège de France on "les Etats de grandeur de Jesus selon Bérulle, Influence du mystère de la Visitation sur la manière de SFS;" Dr. Bordes gave a presentation at the Sorbonne on the sermons of St. Francis de Sales; the Salesian Sisters of Belgium have updated the tapes of Fr. Brix' conferences on the *Treatise*.

A supplement of *La Lettre RES* contains a summary of a study on Book IX of the *Treatise* and highlights of the presentations on this book by several presenters at last year's *Echanges Salésiens* conference.

GERMAN SPEAKING WORLD

Austrian-South German Province

In an article in the Catholic newspaper with the largest circulation, *Deutsche Tagespost* (No. 120/2001, p. 24) Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS, sets forth the reasons why the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales are engaged in the publication of religious books. He referred to St. Francis de Sales who used the mass media of his time, the leaflet, in order to spread his faith. In addition, Fr. Winklehner explained that the Oblates consider it as their essential mission to disseminate the life, work and spirituality of the patron of journalists and writers, utilizing modern means of communication.

The Catholic Center of the University in Eichstätt, Bavaria, celebrated the feast day of St. Francis de Sales in a threefold manner this year: (1) Fr. Johannes Haas, OSFS, the Chaplain of

the Center, celebrated the Eucharist with the students. In his homily, he spoke about the saint's crisis in Paris, and pointed out that Francis walked "through the darkness into the light of God's heavenly love." (2) On the feast day itself, 24 January, the faculty of journalism invited the students to a "journalistic colloquium" with Hubert Schöne, a leading personality of Bavarian Television. He spoke on the subject "Religion on TV." In his lecture he often quoted the patron of the journalists and writers, whom he has admired for many years. After the colloquium, there was a reception for students and local journalists. (3) Some of the music students gave a benefit organ recital in the chapel of the Salesianum, Rosental in Eichstätt on the evening of Sunday 27 January. The recital was entitled "Happiness Opens the Heart," a Salesian saying. The proceeds will be used to help young leukaemia victims.

On 24 January 2002, the world was focused on Assisi (Italy), where Pope John Paul II invited members of all religions to pray for peace. To mark that occasion, Fr. Johannes Haas sent an article to newspapers and his Oblate confreres on the topic: "Prayer for Peace of all Religions — on the Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales." Fr. Haas noted: "On this day everybody looks to Assisi, the city of Brother Francis where representatives of many religions and denominations are assembling to pray for peace in the world. Not only is the place expressive of peace, but also the day. The prayer for peace is taking place on January 24th, the feast day of St. Francis de Sales. Francis of Assisi and Francis de Sales are two saints who were peacemakers in their times. Both paved the way for the "the process of reconciliation" of the church. This text is available at: haas@osfs.at.

St. Francis' feast day at Salesianum, Rosental at Eichstätt, Bavaria highlighted the new biography about the saint written by Fr. Dirk Koster, OSFS, who came from the Netherlands to be the principal celebrant at the

Eucharistic liturgy and to deliver the homily. In his homily, he took the friendship between St. Francis and St. Jeanne de Chantal as an example of the cheerful and appealingly human teaching of the Bishop of Geneva and Doctor of the Church. At the end of the celebration, Fr. Herbert Winklehner, Director of the Franz Sales Verlag, spoke about Koster's biography and noted that it marked an historical event, viz., it was the first time that an Oblate wrote a book on their patron and did it so brilliantly. The German version is available in bookstores or directly from Franz Sales Verlag, Rosental 1, D-85072 Eichstätt, Tel. (++49) 08421/93489-31, fax. (++49) 08421/93489-35, email: info@franz-sales-verlag.de, Internet: www.franz-sales-verlag.de

Fr. Stefan Hauptmann, parish priest of Markt Indersdorf near Dachau in the archdiocese Munich-Freising, Bavaria is an enthusiastic admirer of St. Francis de Sales. He organizes many events to make the saint better known to his parishioners. For example: as a preparation for the the international day of prayer for peace at Assisi, he held an evening prayer service on the vigil of 24 January and utilized the saint's thoughts about the spirit of freedom, patience with oneself and beginning anew each day. On 27 January the feast of St. Francis de Sales was celebrated with a concert by the wind wood ensemble of the Mottetenchors of Munich. The program featured St. Francis de Sales with the title: "Festive wood wind music from five centuries combined with sayings of St. Francis de Sales." Another event was a holy hour on repentance given during Lent by Fr. Johannes Haas, OSFS. He used texts on Salesian spirituality and the Cross. From May 22nd to 27th the members of the parish are invited to make a pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St. Francis de Sales" to the Savoy area.

The 2002 issues of the Salesian magazine LICHT will deal with the topic "Vocation." The articles will treat in-depth the vocation to freedom, to the Cross, to peace, to blessing, to comfort-

ing and to joy. They describe the themes from a biblical and a Salesian viewpoint. In addition, there will be a series of articles to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of St. Francis de Sales. All articles of LICHT are available on the internet at: www.franz-sales-verlag.de

The annual pilgrimage of the members of the Austrian "Franz-von-Sales-Bund" to the church Maria Schmerzen at Poestlingberg near Linz, the capital of Upper Austria, will take place on 26 May 2002. Fr. Siegfried Schoendorfer, OSFS, parish priest of Prambachkirchen, will celebrate the Eucharist and give the homily. For further information, contact the Director of the Franz von Sales Bund, Fr. Herbert Macek, OSFS. email: macek@osfs.at

German province

On the new website of the German province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales can be found the latest information on Salesian activities and events of the Province. Of particular interest are pictures from the canonization of Leonie Aviat on 25 November 2001. These can be viewed at: www.osfs.de

Netherlands Province

On 19 January 2002, the Oblates held a reunion of former students in their seminary "Ave Maria." Over 200 alumni attended a conference organized by an alumnus. Together, they relived the experience of the former boarding school. The small group of Oblates in the Netherlands likes to share its precious Salesian heritage and sees the possibility of doing so with this group, who are the beneficiaries of that heritage. As a result of this reunion, a committee has been formed to plan another meeting for Saturday, 25 May at the same conference center, with the following agenda: (1) collaborating with the work of the periodical *Salesians Contact*; (2) forming a task force to focus on the Oblate missions in

South Africa, Namibia and Brazil; (3) organizing a study group on Salesian spirituality; (4) researching how the works of St. Francis de Sales can be translated to appeal to modern society; (5) the setting up of its own website.

On Wednesday 16 October 2002, the Province will celebrate its 75th Jubilee. A splendid feast has been planned in Oudenbosch. The Oblates like to celebrate with the greater Salesian Family, viz., the priests of St. Francis de Sales in Belgium (2000 members all over the world), the Visitandines of Gent (Belgium) and the Salesians of Don Bosco. They also hope to invite the group of alumni mentioned above and other interested people, particularly members of the "Salesian Circles." A memorial book is being prepared in the form of a video presentation by a film company, with English subtitles. For further information, contact Fr. Willem Spann, OSFS, email: willspan@bart.nl, or Fr. Dirk Koster, OSFS.

Swiss community

The Swiss community of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales published a pamphlet with the title "*Bleiben wir im Glauben*" (Let us remain in faith). In addition to beautiful photographs, it contains thoughts from St. Francis de Sales about "holy equanimity." Irma Eder, who was responsible for text selections and photographs, writes in her preface: "In these difficult times we need to hold a psychological balance based on confidence and faith. In this connection, St. Francis de Sales speaks of equanimity... Nature is a wonderful symbol for equanimity. It always remains in a state of waiting and expectation, ready to receive all that arrives." The pamphlet is available from Fr. Franz Aregger, OSFS, email: pater.aregger@bluewin.ch.

South American Region

Rudimar Dal'Asta, OSFS was ordained a priest in the cathedral of Frederico Westphalen by Bishop Bruno

Maldaner on 2 February 2002. On the following day he celebrated his First Mass in Ponte do Rio Pardo, Brazil.

In early February, the Oblates of the region came together at Porto Alegre, Santa Isabel, Brazil for retreat and chapter. They came from the state of Bahia, from Ecuador and Uruguay. A special and unusual feature of this retreat was the fact that two Oblate sisters from Ecuador, Sr. Francisca Bernardita, Regional Superior, and Sr. Anna Gonzaga, conducted the retreat. For their talks they used texts from St. Leonie Aviat. The most important aspect of this retreat was the opportunity for the Oblate Sisters and Oblates to get together. A number of young Oblate sisters from Ecuador and Colombia joined the meeting. All who participated praised the retreat. "St. Mother Aviat with her life and teachings is part of our life more than ever," was the conclusion of Fr. Leocides Dalla Nora, Regional Superior. "May it be God's will that we always proceed in this beautiful communion," he added.

The foundation of the Oblates in Ecuador would not have been possible without the help of the Oblate Sisters. Also the planned foundation in Colombia depends on their support. After the retreat and the chapter, the two sisters travelled to Montevideo, the capitol of Uruguay. In addition to a very large parish, there is also a private school which belongs to the Oblates. Uruguay is a completely secularized country. In public, it is forbidden to pronounce the word "God," Christmas is called "Feast of the Child" and the Holy Week "Week of Tourism." A Catholic school, conducted by the Oblate Sisters, would be a blessing for this country because the Oblate Sisters are well known and respected as educators. For this reason, they were also allowed to stay in Ecuador after the revolution in 1906, when the Oblates were expelled.

The Portuguese version of the biography of St. Leonie Frances de Sales Aviat by Marie-Aimée D'Esmond was

quickly sold out. A second edition will be published shortly.

The ICSS is very grateful to Maria Isabel Núñez, who is familiar with the Oblate founders, for taking over the responsibility of translating its newsletter into Spanish.

The *Que Jesus Viva!* website, maintained by Bro. James Petrait, OSFS, and Fr. Larry van der Raadt, OSFS, has added more Salesian pictures and the life of St. Leonia Aviat in Spanish and Portuguese (oblatosamlat.50megs.com/).

Sisters of the Visitation

The Visitation sisters of Uedem, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, promote adoration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by the Holy Hour devotion. The first Holy Hour was held by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the year 1675. Usually this hour of prayer is held monthly on the Thursday evening before the first Friday of the month, but it can be held also on other days. Those interested in this Holy Hour devotion can contact Kloster der Heimsuchung, Ostwall 5, D-47589 Uedem, Tel. (+49) 02825/403, Fax. (+49) 02825/7341, email: klosteruedem@t-online.de

The exhibit "Jeanne de Chantal and the Visitation Monasteries of Paris" can still be visited in the monastery of the Visitation at Dietramszell, Bavaria until May 2002. The exhibit documents the history of the Visitation monasteries in rue Saint-Antoine, the Faubourg Saint-Jacques, Chaillot and rue du Bac. Beginning in June 2002, there will be a new exhibit on "Devotion to St. Francis de Sales in Bavaria in the 17th and 18th centuries." This devotion began with the publication of the first German edition of the *Introduction to the Devout Life* in Munich as early as 1616. The translator, Caspar Eysengrein, chose for the title "*Je länger, je lieber*" (The longer, the dearer). Only years later did the title "Philothea" find its way in the German editions. The center piece of the exhibit will be a valuable collection of minia-

ture engravings and parchments. To visit the exhibit, registration by phone is required. For further information contact: Fr. Erich Hehberger, OSFS, Visitation Monastery, 83623 Dietramszell, Phone (+49) 08027/801, Fax (+49) 08027/830, email: hehberger@osfs.at, Internet: www.klosterdietramszell.de. This website gives additional information about the exhibit and other news on Salesian spirituality, some in French and English.

"Visitation means to encounter one another." This is the motto the Visitation sisters of Zangberg, Bavaria, who want to realize it by their programs and services and by living and disseminating Salesian spirituality in our day. To help achieve this goal, a meeting was held with the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and other participants in Ried im Innkreis, Upper Austria on 24 January 2002, the feast day of St. Francis. The theme of the liturgy, homily by Fr. Thomas Vanek, OSFS, and meeting afterwards was "St. Francis de Sales and the Visitation." Once a month the sisters also invite women to evening prayer or a morning meeting with Bible discussion, exchange of ideas, silence and meditation. For further information: Klosterz453@aol.com

Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales

The Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales in Vienna, Austria had weekly meetings for young people during Lent. With the motto "Living Lent Intensively," they want to reach out to young people with Francis de Sales' message, to listen to them and to support them. The meetings consist of Bible discussion, worship, opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation and celebration of the Eucharist. For further information contact Sr. Magdalena Thekla, OSFS, email: oblatinnen.wien@aon.at. About the entire work of the Oblate Sisters in Austria, see the website: <http://www.computronic.at/homes/oblatinnen/>

Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales

The members of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales in Brazil built a children's home in Santa Isabel, Viamão, near the parish and formation house of the Oblates with the help of the sisters in Europe. When they come home from the hospital of Porto Alegre, children suffering from cancer will be able to live there with their mothers and receive medical treatment. For additional information see: <http://members.chello.at/st.there.sia/Salesschwester.htm>

Daughters of St. Francis de Sales

The Society of St. Francis de Sales was founded in Paris in 1872. The founders were the priest Henri Chaumont (1838-1896) and Caroline Carré de Malberg, the wife of a military officer and mother of four children. Both felt the need to enable people to live a devout life in the midst of the world. In this society there are "daughters" and "sons." The Daughters of St. Francis de Sales will set up a second group for the Vienna and Styria region in Austria in September 2002. There is currently in Austria only one group in Innsbruck, Tyrol. Encouraged by the bishop of the diocese of Innsbruck, Alois Kothgasser, a member of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Daughters will organize an open-house in April. Last September, the members discussed "values and virtues in our day" under the direction of Dr. Stephan E. Müller, Professor of Moral Theology at the Catholic University of Eichstätt. Their discussion will eventually center on the Salesian virtues. Brigitte Schwarz can supply additional information: email schwarz@literar.at.

Planned Publications

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft für salesianische Studien will publish its 34th edition of the *Jahrbuch für Salesianische Studien* in 2002. Among other items, it will contain a study by Fr. Thomas

Guenther, OSFS, on the image of the church as St. Francis describes it the *Controversies*; an article by Fr. Franz Wehrl, OSFS, on the 400th anniversary of the episcopal consecration of St. Francis de Sales; and a study by Fr. Alexander Pocetto, OSFS on the relationship of St. Francis de Sales to Bishop Jean-Pierre Camus. The *Jahrbuch* will be published probably in fall 2002 by the Franz Sales Verlag.

The Franz Sales Verlag is planning the publication of a book with the working title "With Francis de Sales through the Advent and Christmas season" by Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS. It is an outcome of Fr. Winklehner's "Salesian Advent Calendar" over the last two Advents, which is disseminated by email to a number of people interested in Salesian spirituality. The book will contain a saying of St. Francis de Sales for every day of the Advent and the Christmas seasons and a spiritual reflection by Fr. Winklehner, questions for personal reflection and a short prayer for the day. The book will be published in fall 2002.

The pamphlet about the Good Mother "*Mère Marie de Sales Chappuis. La confiance absolue en Dieu,*" edited by the sisters of the Visitation in Troyes in 1993, will be published in German and available in April 2002.

India

The Oblates in India held days of reflection last August centered on the nature of the Oblate charism and how to disseminate it in the pluralistic religious culture of India. The gift of this charism was seen not only as enriching India, but also of being enriched by the culture of India. Along this line, Shanee Thomas, OSFS, cited these words of Mahatma Gandhi to missionaries: "If you come to teach in India, I say to you that you cannot give without taking. If you have come to give rich treasures of experience, open your hearts to receive the treasures of this land, and you will never be disappointed, neither will you have misread the message of the Bible."

Salespuram is the name of the new Oblate mission in Kerala, headed by Fr. Sebastian Leitner. In keeping with the desire of the meeting of missionaries last summer to establish a forum for the exchange of ideas, Fr. Leitner has launched the first effort of this electronic forum with comments, observations of Fr. Stephane Raux, OSFS, of the Oblate missions in Benin, Africa.

Italy

There is an Italian website with a holy card picture of St. Francis de Sales, a brief biography of the saint and a prayer to the saint. You can view it at: <http://web.tiscali.it/immaginettesacre/page192.html>.



Toledo-Detroit Province

As noted above, the Province has suffered a severe blow with the death of Fr. Joseph Power. We know that the Province will make every effort to try to continue his inestimable work in spreading Salesian spirituality. Fr. Anthony Ceresko, OSFS, of this Province, formerly stationed in India and now teaching in the Salvatorian Seminary in the Philippines, has published, "St. Francis de Sales 'Spiritual Directory' for a New Century: Reinterpreting the 'Direction of Intention'," *Indian Journal of Spirituality*, Oct.-Dec. 2001, vol. 14, no. 4. He demonstrates that the "right intending" of our daily actions can make us aware of "their potential to transform our society and our world...."

The November-December 2001 issue of *Bondings*, edited by Fr. John Loughran, OSFS, contains an article on St. Leonie Aviat, a reflection on her canonization ceremony by Fr. James Cryan, OSFS, and a report of the most recent Conference on the Spirituality

of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal by Sr. Jacqueline Burke, VHM. In the current issue of this newsletter (Jan-Feb. 2002), Fr. Roland Calvert, OSFS, reviews Wendy Wright's latest book, *Sacred Heart: Gateway to God*, Orbis books, 2001, in which Wendy expresses how deeply captivated she is by the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Wilmington-Philadelphia Province

Both the De Sales Spirituality Center, under Fr Michael Murray's leadership and the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture of De Sales University, headed by Fr. Thomas Dailey, are hitting their stride. The Spirituality Center now has five regional directors in place and will relocate shortly to Childs, MD, which will afford a greater collaboration with the De Sales Retreat Centre, directed by Fr. Michael Donovan. Five parishes have hosted adult spirituality programs given by the Center. Days of recollection were provided for high school faculty, parish staff/lay ministers in a number of schools and parishes. For more detailed information, see: <http://oblates.org/center/>

Fr. Dailey has been getting a lot of favorable public attention for both the University and the Salesian Center with his frequent op-ed articles in the local newspaper on current cultural problems as seen primarily through the clarifying vision of Salesian thought. These articles as well as other writings and events and activities sponsored by this center may be viewed at: <http://www4.desales.edu/SCFC/>. To mark the first feast day of Mother Aviat as a saint, the Center announced the creation of the AVIAT LECTURESHIP ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION. This lectureship in honor of Mother Aviat will sponsor an annual lecture dealing with recent developments and ongoing challenges in the fields of Catholic education (elementary, secondary and post-secondary). The Center is seeking an endowment of \$25,000 to offer these lectures on an annual basis. The Wills Hall communi-

ty of the Oblates of St Francis de Sales has initiated the endowment with a substantial gift. The inaugural lecture is currently planned for the Fall of 2002, on St. Aviat's birthday, 16 September.

Through the efforts of Fr. Robert McGilvray, OSFS, Salesian Accompanied Retreats, developed by the late Fr. William Gallagher, OSFS, will be introduced this summer in the United States. Fr. McGilvray is responsible for organizing these retreats, which will be conducted by Fr. Konrad Esser, OSFS, Fr. Michael Donovan, OSFS, and Fr. Paul Henry, of the archdiocese of Baltimore. To learn more about these retreats, contact Fr. McGilvray at: arm0@desales.edu.

Fifty-two students have shown a serious interest in De Sales Service Works (DSW), headed by Fr. Mark Plaushin, OSFS. The newly acquired house will accommodate five to six people. Those who are interested in learning more about the DSW program can access its website at: <http://www.2desales.com/>

The De Sales Retreat Centre located in Childs, Maryland, has published its brochure listing the retreat programs for spring and fall as well as Sunday afternoon programs. Further information is available by sending an email message to: retreathouse@osfs.org

Salesians of Don Bosco

Magicians have petitioned Rome to declare Don Bosco their patron. This is just another example of the very wide appeal today of this Salesian saint. — In a telegram to Father Luc Van Looy, Father Vecchi's vicar, Pope John Paul II described Fr. Vecchi, recently deceased major rector of the Salesians, as a "zealous minister of the Gospel" and praised his "integral fidelity to Christ and the Church together with his generous commitment to exercise his duty, in a spirit of service, for the good of the Church." — Sister Nancy Pereira of Bangalore, India, whom the Pope has described as an "entrepre-

neur of the poor," has received the Mandir of Peace award for her work. Some compare the 78-year old Salesian nun to Mother Teresa of Calcutta. "I help people live with dignity; she helped them to die in peace with God, but the missionary drive is the same," Sister Pereira said.

Eunan Mc Donnell, SDB, has recently published *God Desires You: St. Francis de Sales on Living the Gospel* (Dublin: The Columbia Press, 2001). The book jacket reads: "Anyone who is seriously seeking the path of gospel freedom will find in St. Francis de Sales a sure guide to accompany them in the way of love. This book presents in detail the spiritual journey as outlined by St. Francis de Sales."

Additional Research Projects/Articles/Books/Audio/Visuals

Research. Fr. Marcelo Falcon (email: marofal@yahoo.com), of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, is doing a master's thesis dealing with the Christ-centered spirituality in St. Francis de Sales's writings, going deeply into the meaning of his motto "Vive Jesus!" — Fr. Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS, is working on a DEA in history and theology: "*Les deux crises, Paris et Padoue, de St. François de Sales, Étudiant.*" A seminarian at the major seminary of Strasbourg is treating in a master's thesis *St. François de Sales et l'humilité*.

Articles: Patrick Madrid, "The Heart of An Apostle," *Envoy* magazine, vol. 5.2. It is an interestingly written account of St. Francis' difficulties in the Chablais with relevant observations on how we can apply his approach and determination to spreading God's word in today's world. † Bishop François Vincent "The Spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales," available at: <http://www.ewtn.com/SPIRIT/SALESPIR.TXT>.

Books: Sr. Mary Patricia Burns, VHM, *Françoise-Madeleine de Chauzy: Dans l'ombre et la lumière de la canoization de*

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François de Sales, l'Académie Salésienne, Annecy, 2002. This is a very intriguing tale of Mother de Chaugy's role in the struggle to canonize the founder of her order. † Donna Spivey Ellington, *From Sacred Body to Angelic Soul: Understanding Mary in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, Washington, DC.: Catholic University of America Press, 2001. The author's principal sources are sermons by the most notable preachers, among them St. Francis de Sales, of the periods studied. An excellent review of this work by Fr. Joseph Chorpenning, OSFS, will appear the Summer, 2002 issue of the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. † Two recent books on St. Joseph published by St. Joseph's University Press that draw on Fr. Chorpenning's scholarship on this saint and the role St. Francis de Sales played in deepening our understanding of St. Joseph are: Carolyn C. Wilson, *St. Joseph in Italian Renaissance Society and Art: New Directions and Interpretations*; Joseph Lienhard, *St. Joseph in Early*

Christianity, Devotion and Theology: A Study and an Anthology of Patristic Texts. † The De Sales Resource Center has re-published Wendy Wright's very popular, *Bond of Perfection: Jeanne de Chantal & François de Sales.*

Audio Visuals: *Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal*, 31 minute video by Fr. Robert McGilvray, OSFS, which very successfully weaves together his own unique photos of rarely seen Salesian locations and artifacts of the stained glass in the Annecy Basilica. † "Heartfelt Faith" - four cassettes of talks given by Frs. Joseph Power and John Graden at a parish mission on the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. *Introduction to a Devout Life*, text of J.K. Ryan, professionally read by Al Covaia for Religious Books on tape. These are all available from the De Sales Resource Center at: www.desalesresource.org.

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This newsletter can be accessed at: www.desales.edu/salesian/ (The last slash is necessary). Information for future issues may be sent to A. Pocetto via email: alexander.pocetto@desales.edu, fax:(610)282-2059 or by mail at DeSales University, 2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034-9568, USA.

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