



# ICSS NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1997 and published biannually by the International Commission for Salesian Studies (ICSS) of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

## Annecy Workshop Marks 400th Anniversary of the *Treatise on the Love of God*

During the week of 18-23 July 2016, nearly seventy members of the Salesian family from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America—De Sales Oblates, religious sisters and priests from other Salesian institutes, the archbishop of Lipa in the Philippines, diocesan priests and lay men and women—participated in a workshop on St. Francis de Sales's masterwork, *Treatise on the Love of God*, to mark the 400th anniversary year of its publication. This workshop ran concurrently with the summer 2016 meeting of the De Sales Oblates Major Superiors.

The workshop rolled out a series of nearly four dozen videos to assist in teaching/presenting the *Treatise* in religious formation, parishes, small groups, etc. The videos were developed and prepared by Fr. Lewis S. Fiorelli, OSFS, General Formation Coordinator, in collaboration with Frs. Donald Heet, OSFS, of the Wilmington-Philadelphia Province, Ken McKenna, OSFS, Provincial of the Toledo-Detroit Province, and Michael Newman, OSFS, Novice Director for the North American Provinces. Translation of the video scripts into various languages is underway.

The goals of the workshop were to show participants how to present the *Treatise* to others, as well as to convey some important themes of the *Treatise*. Participants were divided into small language groups (English, French, and Portuguese), which were led by one of the De Sales Oblates who worked on the preparation of the videos or on the translation of their scripts. Groups watched a video and then discussed it, evaluated the study guide, and suggested further discussion questions. The group leaders modeled effective pedagogical methods, with formator-participants being invited to lead the group in subsequent sessions later in the week. Sessions were well planned and conducted, and response to the workshop was extraordinarily positive. The workshop and the meeting of the Major Superiors concluded with a Eucharistic liturgy at the Basilica of St. Francis de Sales, at the Visitation Monastery.

The videos, together with other Salesian formation resources, are available at <http://www.formation.desalesoblates.org>. First-time users need to set up an account by following three steps: (1) click on "create an account"; (2) follow the on-screen instructions; and (3) you will receive an

## *2017 Major Salesian Anniversaries*

450th Anniversary  
of the Birth of  
St. Francis de Sales  
21 August 1567



200th Anniversary  
of the Birth of  
Bl. Louis Brisson  
23 June 1817

## Another Savoyard Saint of the Early Modern Catholic Renewal

Peter Faber (1506-46) was the roommate of Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) and Francis Xavier (1506-52) and as integral as them to the founding of the Society of Jesus. But it's taken nearly 400 years longer for him to be canonized — at the behest of a Jesuit pope. Like St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622), Faber was a Savoyard. Francis de Sales greatly admired Faber, who in many ways anticipated the Salesian pastoral approach, promoted his veneration, and is credited with playing a pivotal role in his cause for beatification. In a future issue of the *ICSS Newsletter*, the affinity of Faber, Francis de Sales and Pope Francis will be explored. In the meantime, we are pleased to present to our readers this article by Fr. Michael Holman, SJ, that was originally published, with the title “Nourishing Hearts and Informing Minds,” in the January 2014 issue of *The Tablet* of London. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Publisher of *The Tablet* (<http://www.thetablet.co.uk>).

On 17 December 2013, Pope Francis issued a bull of canonization declaring the sixteenth-century Jesuit Peter Faber a saint (Figure 1). Not for Faber a solemn ceremony in St. Peter's Square. This form of canonization suspends the ordinary processes of saint-making and is reserved for those long dead whose outstanding holiness has long since been recognized.

Faber was born in 1506 into a farming family in the village of Villaret in the Duchy of Savoy and never lost a fondness for the popular devotions of his childhood. It was while studying in the University of Paris that he shared a room with Francis Xavier and then also with Ignatius of Loyola. Faber later wrote: “[Ignatius] became my spiritual teacher and gave me rules for ascertaining the will of God. . . . We spent four years together in the [College] Sainte-Barbe having all things in common with others who had come to share our way of life.” Thus their circle of friendship grew and from it was born the Society of Jesus.

Faber was the first of his companions to be ordained a priest, and thereafter he travelled extensively in Italy, Spain and above all in the Rhineland. With the Reformation at its height, his ministry focused on those who had abandoned, or were at risk of abandoning, their faith. His spiritual journal reveals a man acutely sensitive to the ways of God in his life and the lives of others; a man intensely in love with Jesus and eager to share that love with others. No one, in St. Ignatius's opinion, directed the *Spiritual Exercises* more skillfully than Faber and at a time of fierce debate and mutual condemnation, the tools of Faber's ministry were friendship and conversation, gentleness and compassion.

Faber died of a fever in Rome on 1 August 1546 on his way to the Council of Trent and was buried in the Society of Jesus's chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Wayside. He was soon publicly venerated in his homeland and in Villaret a chapel was built to house his statue. In 1607, the bishop of Geneva, St. Francis de Sales, dedicated an altar in that same chapel and in his writings testified to his holiness.

Elsewhere, Faber's memory faded, and it was not until 1872 that he was beatified by Bl. Pope Pius IX. His significance was more fully appreciated in the years before and following the Second Vatican Council, when the Society of Jesus began renewing its life and mission by looking anew at the years of its foundation and early ministry. New editions of Faber's spiritual



Figure 1: St. Pierre Favre (Peter Faber), 17th century engraving. Photo: courtesy repository of images of Faber, Jesuit Curia, Rome ([www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info)).

journal and letters were published, one of which was prepared in Argentina in the 1970s at the request of the Jesuit provincial of the time, Fr. Jorge Bergoglio.

In his interview in *La Civiltà Cattolica* in September 2013, Pope Francis spoke of the impact which Faber had made on him. Just as Pope Benedict XVI presented St. John Vianney as a model of priesthood, so Pope Francis is giving us Peter Faber, a man whose life and ministry illustrates the missionary priesthood he has been vigorously encouraging these past months, not least in his recent apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel).

For Faber, pastoral ministry mattered most of all: “I grieve that our leaders busy themselves with trivialities; that highly gifted men are preoccupied with paltry nothings . . . the first and

foremost duty of the ministers of the Church is to feed the flock of Christ.” This pastoral ministry Faber exercised in a missionary way. He took to the road to meet those most in need, those whose faith was fragile, and he met them on their home territory (Figure 2).

He carried out this ministry in imitation of the compassionate Jesus, as he put it, the consoler, the helper, the redeemer, the healer. He counselled his Jesuit companions to love those whom others regarded as adversaries and with him “to banish from our souls anything that might lessen our love and esteem for them.”

Faber was a master of the confessional, encouraging his penitents to look below the surface and identify the root cause of their ills. No penitent, he wrote, should “face an ordeal” but encounter the “vicars of the gentle Christ” and “freely return there.”

He avoided debates about differences in doctrine but instead focused in his conversations on developing friendship and building up trust in such a way that something significant could be spoken and heard. “A man who can speak with them on how to live well . . . will do them more good than another who is filled with theological authorities for confounding them.”

Faber’s fellow Savoyard the Jesuit Michel de Certeau wondered if he fully understood the significance of the Reformers’ ideas. Faber thought people abandoned the faith less because of disagreement with doctrine per se, more because they no longer had the habits of life that supported it. The *Spiritual Exercises* and their adaptations nurtured such habits and provided a rhythm and routine of life and prayer which enabled men and women to encounter Christ just as Faber had done when guided by Ignatius in their room in Paris.

He also blamed the bad example of clerics and religious. “Even those who direct works of charity do not know how to be kind and patient, how to gain people’s confidence and raise their spirits.” So he and his companions worked in hospices, hospitals and prisons and their living of Christ’s love of the poor lent authority and credibility to what they taught.

Faber’s ministry played its part in the development by the first Jesuits of a distinctive “whole person” approach to evangelization with those on the frontiers of the Church. They sought not only to inform people’s minds about Christ but also to nourish their hearts by helping them encounter Christ in prayer and daily living and then to put this faith into practice by being involved, as was Christ, with the poor. This formation was strengthened and sustained in groups, in confraternities and sodalities.

What enabled Faber to live his priesthood in this missionary way? His religious formation had taken place not in seclusion but in the University of Paris at a time of religious turmoil. His spirituality supported the risk-taking his missionary activity involved: his prayer was a dialogue of desires expressed and graces received, with accompanying movements of consolation and desolation, and he discerned what to do as he associated his own experience with the experience of Jesus.



Figure 2: *St. Peter Faber on Missionary Journey Accompanied by Angels*, stained-glass window. Photo: courtesy repository of images of Faber, Jesuit Curia, Rome ([www.sjweb.info](http://www.sjweb.info)). “When the great Peter Faber . . . was on his return journey one day from Germany where he had performed great services for the glory of our Lord . . . , he told how he had passed through many heretical places and had gained countless consolations from the guardian angels of the various parishes and on repeated occasions had received the most sensible and convincing proofs of their protection” (St. Francis de Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, trans. and ed. John K. Ryan, 2nd ed. revised [New York: Harper & Row, 1966], 88 [Part 2, chapter 16]).

Furthermore, his theology was based, as de Certeau observed, more in affectivity than the intellect. His learning nourished his prayer and his prayer led him to engage with people after the example of Jesus.

Faber’s own example, like that being given by Pope Francis himself, is both attractive and challenging, even daunting. In this technological age, Faber reminds us that there is no substitute for a ministry of personal contact: for cultivating patience, a prayerful familiarity with Christ, an understanding of the ways of God in one’s own life and the lives of others and a willingness to befriend and dialogue lovingly with those who see things very differently. And if the evangelizing work of Faber and his companions was all the more successful for engaging the whole person, ours could be too.



Annecey Workshop, *continued from page 1*

e-mail thanking you for registering and activating your account (which must be activated before you can use it). The videos are also available on YouTube. Here is a list of the topics of the videos of the *Treatise* program:

- 0.1 How the *Treatise* Came to Be Written  
<https://youtu.be/3QSGFb2pMX0>
- 0.2 The *Treatise* in Dialog with People Today  
<https://youtu.be/uLvXy22rRXE>
- 0.3 Structure of the *Treatise* <https://youtu.be/hHcjf7kjbVo>
- 0.4 Why and for Whom [https://youtu.be/\\_ag0a1EUXZY](https://youtu.be/_ag0a1EUXZY)
- 1.1 How Francis Understands Human Nature  
[https://youtu.be/UVg9A5Yh8\\_0](https://youtu.be/UVg9A5Yh8_0)
- 1.2 What Is Love [https://youtu.be/l2gG\\_prrJsE](https://youtu.be/l2gG_prrJsE)
- 1.3 What Does It Mean to Love God  
<https://youtu.be/jXsVvIR4UN8>
- 2.1 Divine Providence and God's Love for Us  
[https://youtu.be/tjaavBv4\\_w0](https://youtu.be/tjaavBv4_w0)
- 2.2 How the Love of God Begins to Grow in Us  
<https://youtu.be/13GwF81jpJU>
- 2.3 Faith and Hope <https://youtu.be/-ezVd47BZ6g>
- 2.4 Penitence and Charity <https://youtu.be/CVSVyGd4B7Q>
- 3.1 How Our Love of God Can Continue to Grow  
<https://youtu.be/aVC1HjkiEQ>
- 3.2 Union with God in Heaven [https://youtu.be/hF\\_f\\_fu29N0](https://youtu.be/hF_f_fu29N0)
- 4.1 Sin <https://youtu.be/pbh5iZ8PE4s>
- 4.2 Predestination <https://youtu.be/l6VfnYNrn9k>
- 4.3 The Soul that Has Lost Charity  
<https://youtu.be/6wKzwrP9YR0>
- 5.1 Complacent and Benevolent Love  
<https://youtu.be/K8E5zvf2Is>
- 5.2 Complacent Love <https://youtu.be/C4j3xdb9Xr8>
- 5.3 Benevolent Love <https://youtu.be/GtgOQ6orHG4>
- 6.1 Affective and Effective Love

- <https://youtu.be/v59SmAcQeBs>
- 6.2 Affective Love Practiced in Meditation  
<https://youtu.be/sTgy3j6Fa2A>
- 6.3 Affective Love Practiced in Contemplation  
<https://youtu.be/shClqSHvzZo>
- 7.1 Union with God Perfected in Prayer  
<https://youtu.be/i6Upua5PGG0>
- 7.2 Sacred Ecstasies <https://youtu.be/z99uYX-wGrQ>
- 7.3 Love and Death <https://youtu.be/CdvOi5tOxLI>
- 8.1 Introduction to Books 8 and 9  
<https://youtu.be/bv1hqRtxVfQ>
- 8.2 The Love of Conformity <https://youtu.be/pLlOxF06Vik>
- 8.3 Commandments, Counsels and Inspirations  
<https://youtu.be/RsBqHycTP7A>
- 9.1 Chapters One and Two <https://youtu.be/9i0rDEXlzxI>
- 9.2 Resignation and Indifference  
<https://youtu.be/RZBcPvJU6GY>
- 9.3 The Death of the Will <https://youtu.be/Grz237hg4YY>
- 9.4 Living Between the Two Wills <https://youtu.be/c0pFpzg0KwY>
- 10.1 Books 10-12 in Context <https://youtu.be/RZBcPvJU6GY>
- 10.2 The Command to Love God  
<https://youtu.be/WmF20GVaXL4>
- 10.3 The Command to Love Neighbor  
<https://youtu.be/6IMdbUwauuQ>
- 11.1 The Supreme Authority of Sacred Love  
[https://youtu.be/m3r\\_1xWy8tY](https://youtu.be/m3r_1xWy8tY)
- 11.2 Charity and the Other Virtues <https://youtu.be/OrcrfTelXi8>
- 11.3 Charity and the Holy Spirit <https://youtu.be/7xMDLKvcfZ4>
- 12.1 Overview of Book 12 <https://youtu.be/O3UrkDd98PE>
- 12.2 The *Treatise* and the *Introduction to the Devout Life*  
<https://youtu.be/k9EoEHG9rLo>
- 12.3 The *Treatise* and the *Spiritual Directory*  
<https://youtu.be/XDJ4xmGX6vA>
- 12.4 Motivation to Love God <https://youtu.be/4Mv1AGXf4fY>

The ICSS NEWSLETTER was founded in 1997 and is published biannually by the International Commission for Salesian Studies (ICSS) of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (Joseph F. Chorpenning, OSFS, Chairman; Valdir Formentini, OSFS; Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS; Herbert Winklehner, OSFS). Its primary purpose is to disseminate on a global scale information dealing with Salesian Studies (St. Francis de Sales; St. Jane Frances de Chantal; Bl. Louis Brisson, founder of the De Sales Oblates and the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales; the Visitation of Holy Mary; Lay Institutes and other Religious who are members of the Salesian Family).

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Design and typesetting: Carol McLaughlin

## 2017 SALESIAN CALENDAR FOR THE DE SALES OBLATES

- Tues., Jan. 24 Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales,  
Principal Patron of the Congregation
- Fri., June 23 Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart  
of Jesus
- Sat., Aug. 12 Feast of St. Jane Frances de Chantal,  
Secondary Patron of the Congregation
- Thurs., Oct. 12 Feast of Blessed Louis Brisson,  
Founder of the Oblates and Oblate Sisters of  
St. Francis de Sales
- Mon., Oct. 16 Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- Tues., Nov. 21 Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary



# SALESIAN STUDIES WORLDWIDE

## **NEW ICSS MEMBER:**

**Fr. Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS**

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The Superior General and Council have appointed Fr. Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS, of the French Province, as a member of the ICSS representing the Francophone world. Fr. Leroux succeeds Fr. Dirk Koster, OSFS, of the Netherlands Province, who served as a member of the ICSS for many years and who passed away in January 2016 (see the memoir of Fr. Koster in *ICSS Newsletter*, No. 33 [April 2016]:16). A distinguished and prolific Salesian scholar in his own right, Fr. Leroux serves as President of the Association RES, Recherches et Études Salésiennes, as well as Editor of the renowned *Annales Salésiennes* (founded in 1888 by Bl. Louis Brisson, founder of the Oblate Sisters and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales). For many years, Fr. Leroux has been indefatigable in promoting and disseminating the Salesian charism and scholarship in the French-speaking world. The ICSS congratulates and extends a warm welcome to Fr. Leroux.

## **ICSS 2016-17 Grant Awards**

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The General Council and the Major Superiors unanimously approved three grant applications recommended for funding by the ICSS: South American and Caribbean Province, US\$2,650., to assist the translation into Portuguese of the series of DVDs on the *Treatise on the Love of God* prepared on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of its publication; Fr. John Graden, OSFS (Toledo-Detroit Province), US\$2,500 to assist publication of *In a Nutshell: Treatise on the Love of God*, by Margaret Margeton, Daughter of St. Francis de Sales; and Fr. Graden, US\$1,630 to assist developing and uploading e-book formats for two popular Salesian books already in print (*St. Francis de Sales: Life & Spirit*, by Joseph Boenzi, SDB, and *Falling in Love with God: A Personal Message for Today's Young People from St. Francis de Sales*, by Michel Tournade, OSFS).

## **Africa**

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### **IVORY COAST**

The De Sales Oblates in Benin have moved their house of formation from Benin to Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast. After surmounting many challenges, construction of the new house was completed in September 2016. Fr. Bernard de Clairvaux Toha, OSFS, is the scholastic master. The General Council will meet in Abidjan in late February 2017, and at this time the new formation house will be blessed.

## **Europe**

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### **FRANCE**

About fifteen representatives of Salesian institutes established in Haute-Savoie met on 14 June 2014 at the invitation of several provincials. At this meeting, a Coordinating Team was formed and given four mandates: (1) to establish a Salesian School of Spirituality in the diocese of Annecy; (2) to plan and promote Salesian pilgrimages in the region; (3) to develop proposals for Salesian celebrations in the parishes of the diocese; and (4) to set up a data bank of documents, resource persons, etc.

The new issue of the *Annales Salésiennes*, nouvelle série, n° 14, 2<sup>ème</sup> semestre (2016) includes the texts of the following presentations from the 2016 *Journées Salésiennes*, held in Troyes (France), 16-20 August, with the theme, "Bernard of Clairvaux and Francis de Sales: Two Prophets of Surprising Relevance."

- Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS, "Saint François de Sales et la miséricorde" (St. Francis de Sales and Mercy)
- Blandine Delahaye, "La genèse du *Traité de l'amour de Dieu*" (The Genesis of the *Treatise on the Love of God*)
- François Marxer, "Avec Fenélon re-lire (re-lire) Bernard"

de Clairvaux et François de Sales: l'impossible (de l'amour" (With Fénélon, Re-reading [Re-linking] Bernard of Clairvaux and Francis de Sales: The Upmost Love)

- Philippe Legros, "La notion d'univers dans le *Traité de l'amour de Dieu* (The notion of unidiverse in the *Treatise on the Love of God*)

This issue also includes the paper, "La miséricorde et la pastorale diocésane" (Mercy and Pastoral Practice at the Diocesan Level), by Romaric Dagba, PSFS, delivered at the *Journées Salésiennes du Bénin*, 29 August-2 September 2016, with the theme, "La miséricorde et saint François de Sales" (Mercy and St. Francis de Sales). The next issue of the *Annales Salésiennes*, nouvelle série, n° 15, 1<sup>er</sup> semestre (2017) will publish the remaining papers from the 2016 *Journées Salésiennes* in Troyes and the *Journées Salésiennes du Bénin*.

In 2017, the *Journées Salésiennes* celebrates its 50th anniversary, as well as the 450th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis de Sales. The 2017 *Journées* will be a "Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Francis de Sales: Annecy, Thonon, Thorens, and Saint-Germain," 10-14 July 2017. At each site, there will be a lecture on a Salesian topic, together with a guided visit. Space is limited, so reservations will be accepted on a first come basis. For further information, contact *Journées Salésiennes*, 251 route de l'église, 74410 Saint-Jorioz, France; e-mail: [associationres69@yahoo.fr](mailto:associationres69@yahoo.fr).

The Salesian Week of the Visitation was held in the Basilica of St. Francis de Sales, Annecy, 21-28 August 2016, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the *Treatise on the Love of God*, emphasizing it as a "cry of the heart of Francis de Sales." The speakers and their topics were as follows: Chantal Touvet, "Pour donner envie de lire le *Traité de l'amour de Dieu*" (To Whet the Appetite for Reading the *Treatise on the Love of God*); P. Jean-Claude Mutazi, PSFS, "De la convenance entre Dieu et l'homme, grâce à l'amour" (On the Affinity between God and Man, Thanks to Love); Jean-Luc Leroux, OSFS, "Dieu miséricordieux dans le *Traité de l'amour de Dieu*" (The Merciful God in the *Treatise on the Love of God*); Soeur Marie-Luc, VSM, "Jésus s'est fait chair dans notre humanité, par amour" (Jesus Was Made Flesh in Our Humanity by Love); Père Bernard Baussand, OSFS, "Images de grâce et de la liberté dans le *Traité de l'amour de Dieu*" (Images of Grace and Freedom in the *Treatise on the Love of God*); Philippe Legros, "*L'Unidivers salésien*" (The Salesian Unidiverse).

The bishop of Annecy has entrusted to the De Sales Oblates the Hermitage of Saint-Germain-sur-Talloires, the place where Francis de Sales wanted to retire, with a Salesian mission. Fr. Thierry Mollard, OSFS, has been appointed pastor and Fr. Stéphane Raux, OSFS, as his associate, to imbue the parish with the Salesian spirit.

#### GERMAN-SPEAKING PROVINCE (GERMANY-AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND)

The conference, "If Your Heart Is Wandering or Suffering: To Be Christian in Business and Everyday Life. Insights from the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales," took place in the Protestant Academy in Loccum, Lower Saxony, 27-29 November 2015. The Protestant Academy in Loccum is one of the most prestigious educational institutions of the Protestant Church in Germany ([www.loccum.de](http://www.loccum.de)). Gabriele Arndt-Sandrock, a senior administrator at this Academy, became acquainted with St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Frances de Chantal at a conference about "Spiritual Friendship" that she attended in the United States, and she organized this conference to introduce Salesian spirituality to Protestant Christians in Germany. Invited speakers included Fr. Thomas Vanek, OSFS, Provincial of the German-Speaking Province, who spoke about the virtue of mindfulness according to de Sales and the Salesian method of meditation; Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS, who presented an introduction to the origins and meaning of the *Introduction to the Devout Life*; and Dr. Margit Eckholt, Professor of Dogmatic and Fundamental Theology, University of Osnabrück, Lower Saxony, whose topic was "To Find Someone Who Just Listens: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Frances de Chantal."

On 22 January 2016, Fr. Vincent Kumar, OSFS, gave a presentation on the topic, "Francis de Sales in the Indian Oblates and Salesian Spirituality in the Asian Subcontinent," in preparation for the Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales, in Fockenfeld, Bavaria. Those in attendance included students, teachers, and employees, as well as interested people from the neighborhood around Fockenfeld. At the end of the Year of Consecrated Life, this event was intended to give an idea of the worldwide activities of the De Sales Oblates in the Catholic Church.

On 26 January 2016, the celebration of the Eucharist at The Catholic University of Eichstätt, Bavaria, focused on St. Francis de Sales. The following day, a journalistic colloquium took place to celebrate the feast of the patron of journalists. The speaker was Michaela Pilters, a journalist of the German public-service television (ZDF), whose topic was "Journalism without Voyeurism."

On 24 January 2016, a new parish, under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales ([www.franzvonsales.at](http://www.franzvonsales.at)), was established in Vienna, Austria, by the merger of the three former parishes in Krim, Kaasgraben, and Glanzing. The presider and homilist for the first Eucharistic celebration was Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, OP, archbishop of Vienna, who quoted St. Francis de Sales's well-known saying, "You can catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a barrel of vinegar," suggesting it as an appropriate motto for the Salesian parish pastoral council.

(continued on page 11)

## “Flowers of Glory for the Founders of the Visitation Order” Retrospective of 2016 Exhibition at the Musée de la Visitation (Moulins, France)

Since 2007, the Musée de la Visitation has mounted an annual exhibition focusing on the Salesian-Visitandine cultural and spiritual patrimony (see “The Musée de la Visitation in Moulins: A Celebration of Visitandine Heritage,” *ICSS Newsletter*, No. 25 [April 2010]: 1-12). In 2016 (9 May – 24 December), the exhibit, *Les fleurs de la gloire pour les fondateurs de la Visitation* (“Flowers of Glory for the Founders of the Visitation Order”), highlighted the life-stories of Francis de Sales and Jane Frances de Chantal, whose initial encounter in 1604 gave birth to one of the greatest spiritual friendships in Christian history, as well as the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary. The exhibit richly and memorably recounted these two saints’ biographies via their material culture, i.e., the textiles, books, objects, images, etc., that were part and parcel of their daily lives in the early seventeenth-century Francophone world.

The photo spread on this and the following pages offers a sample of some of the dozens of treasures that formed part of this splendid exhibition. The provenance of the items illustrated here is the Visitation Monasteries in Annecy and in Moulins, and they are here reproduced with their generous permission. The *ICSS Newsletter* is likewise grateful for the gracious assistance of M. Gérard Picard and M. Jean Foisselon, the Musée de la Visitation’s founding director and administrative officer, respectively, in bringing this retrospective to our readers in the Salesian family worldwide.

This exhibition was accompanied by a handsome, profusely-illustrated catalogue, co-published by the museum and the Parisian art publisher Somogy. Copies of the exhibition catalogue may be purchased from Musée de la Visitation, 4, place de l’Ancien Palais, Moulins, France (35 Euros).



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1. *The New Testament of Our Lord Jesus Christ*, used by St. Jane Frances de Chantal (Paris: Sébastien Huré, 1632). Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy.
2. Étienne Martellange, SJ (1568-1641), *St. Francis de Sales*, 1606. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy. According to Mother de Chantal, this small portrait (17 cm x 13 cm), was a true likeness of Francis. The artist depicts the saint against a dark brown background. He has a tapered beard that is more prominent than in other portraits. Francis’s blue eyes look to the left. His drooping eyelids and the pronounced circles around the eyes make Francis appear fatigued.
3. *St. Francis de Sales*, a portrait given by Mother de Chantal to a lady friend of the Visitation Order, painting on marble, 17th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy.



4.



5.



6.



7. *St. Vincent de Paul's Vision of the Three Globes* (detail), embroidery, late 19th century-early 20th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Anancy. Upon learning of Mother de Chantal's death, Vincent de Paul had a vision of her and Francis de Sales as two shining globes of light meeting and joining to merge into the great sun of the godhead.

- 4. Episcopal ring and pectoral cross of St. Francis de Sales, early 17th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Moulins.
- 5. Doctoral hat of St. Francis de Sales, felt, late 16th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Anancy. In 1591, Francis received the double doctorate in civil and canon law (*in utroque jure*) from the University of Padua.
- 6. Damask and silk embroidered chasuble made by St. Jane Frances de Chantal and other Visitandines for St. Francis de Sales, early 17th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Anancy.





8. *The Holy Family, St. Francis de Sales, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, and Two Novices*, oil on canvas, 17th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy. The Visitation Order's fervent devotion to St. Joseph and the Holy Family is well documented, and here is elegantly given visual expression, as it also is in no. 9, *The Holy Family and Visitandine Novices*.

“[The Holy Family] . . . composed of only three persons, . . . was a trinity on earth that represents in some way the most holy Trinity. Mary, Jesus, and Joseph; Joseph, Jesus, and Mary: a trinity marvelously estimable and worthy of being honored.”

St. Francis de Sales  
Sermon on the Virtues of St. Joseph  
19 March 1622



10.



9.



11.

9. *The Holy Family and Visitandine Novices*, oil on canvas, late 17th century. Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Moulins. The novices and their directors kneel before the Holy Family, while Jesus liberally distributes crosses to them.
10. *The Office of the Virgin Mary . . . for the Usage of the Religious of the Visitation of Holy Mary*, used by Mother de Chantal (Paris: Sébastien Huré, 1636). Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy. For the Visitation Order, St. Francis de Sales substituted the Little Office of Our Lady for the full Divine Office because it was less arduous for the type of women he had in mind for the new foundation. At the same time, Francis, who was an excellent Latinist, was exacting in his requirements for the correct recital of the office; he and his brother Jean, the cantor at the cathedral, which was renowned for the excellent quality of its liturgies, taught the original community at the Galerie how to say the office correctly. The de Sales brothers themselves composed the chant of the office on three notes, an impressive variation that can still be heard in Visitation monasteries today.
11. Sébastien Huré, *The Visitation*, engraving in *The Office of the Virgin Mary . . . for the Usage of the Religious of the Visitation of Holy Mary*, used by Mother de Chantal (Paris: Sébastien Huré, 1636). Photo: reproduced courtesy Visitation Monastery, Annecy. For St. Francis de Sales, the Visitation was the primary mystery of salvation. Francis believed that St. Joseph accompanied the Virgin Mary on her journey to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth. In accord with this view, Huré portrays this Gospel mystery as a double visitation (the encounter of Mary and Elizabeth being repeated by Joseph and Zechariah), which was a very popular way of depicting the Visitation from the late Middle Ages on.

The church of Lichtenberg, a mission of the parish of Linz-Pöstlingberg in Upper Austria, has as its titular patron St. Francis de Sales. To highlight this patronage, the stained-glass window at the church's entrance was recently re-designed by the Upper Austrian artist Christa Aistleitner. In the window's center is the phrase: "Place me (God) in your heart, then you can feel me, you can learn that I love you." Also incorporated into the design is de Sales's favorite prayer of the heart, "Live Jesus!" For a detailed description of the design and photos, see: <http://www.osfs.eu/2016/05/06/kunstprojekt-franz-von-sales-in-lichtenberg/>.

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Salesianische Spiritualität (Salesian Spirituality Working Group) met for its annual conference at the Salesianum Rosental, Eichstätt, Bavaria, 12-13 February 2016. The topic was: "Theotimus 2016 - Spiritual and Pastoral Approaches." Fr. Johannes Haas, OSFS, Chair, spoke on "Experiences of God Today." Fr. Alois Bachinger, OSFS, discussed "Beauty in the Theology of St. Francis de Sales," and Dr. Thomas Günther reflected on the "Conflict with the Will of God in the *Treatise on the Love of God*." The Austrian writer Josef Dirnbeck focused on "Loving God and Singing Songs About It." The next annual conference is scheduled for 3-4 March 2017, with the theme, "De Sales 2017," to commemorate the 450th anniversary the saint's birth.

The website of the German-Speaking Province of the De Sales Oblates ([www.osfs.eu](http://www.osfs.eu)) was given a completely new design to meet the needs of today's Internet users more effectively, especially social media. In addition to information about the De Sales Oblates and Salesian spirituality, as well as Province and Congregational news items, there is also a weekly Salesian homily for Sundays and feast days during the liturgical year.

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy were the topic of a series of homilies during Lent and Easter in the church Maria Schmerzen (Our Lady of Sorrows) in Vienna, which is also the site of the Provincial Residence of the German-Speaking Province of the De Sales Oblates. Various preachers offered Salesian perspectives on the fourteen works of mercy during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. One fruit of this series of homilies was that the archdiocese gave permission for an official "Holy Door" in this church—an acknowledgement of how deeply rooted mercy is in Salesian spirituality. As Francis wrote in a letter to Jane Frances de Chantal in 1604: "Just have unlimited confidence that God's mercy and kindness will never leave you" (Annex edition, 12:267).

In a similar vein, the church of Steinhof in Vienna, one of the most important *Art Nouveau* churches in the world, features stained-glass windows on the works of mercy by Koloman Moser, one of the foremost artists of the Vienna Secession movement at the beginning of the twentieth century. Each of the fourteen works of mercy is represented by a saint, among

which is Francis de Sales, who represents the spiritual work, "Instruct the Ignorant." For more information about this famous church and the stained-glass windows, see [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirche\\_am\\_Steinhof](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirche_am_Steinhof) (an English version is also available). The picture of the saints of mercy, including St. Francis de Sales, may be found at: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirche\\_am\\_Steinhof#/media/File:Kolo\\_Moser\\_Steinhof\\_geistige\\_Tugenden\\_Osten.jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirche_am_Steinhof#/media/File:Kolo_Moser_Steinhof_geistige_Tugenden_Osten.jpg).

On 28 May 2016, the musical, "The Baroness," was performed at the German Katholikentag (a festival-like gathering in German-speaking countries organized by the Roman Catholic laity) in Leipzig, Saxony. Under the leadership of Judith Trifellner, the performers were children and young people of the parish of Bad Endorf, Bavaria. The performance was sponsored by the De Sales Oblates. The musical tells the story of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, her encounter with St. Francis de Sales, and the founding of the Order of the Visitation. The musical was composed by Francis Care, and the text was written by Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS, and Nicola Bamberger. For further information, see [www.musical-diebaronin.de](http://www.musical-diebaronin.de).

Thirty members of the German-Speaking Province of the De Sales Oblates met, 11-13 August 2016, in the Gymnasium Fockenfeld Bavaria. The focus of this meeting was to prepare for the election of the provincial superior in 2017. The second four-year term of the current Provincial, Fr. Thomas Vanek, OSFS, ends in June 2017. However, he can be re-elected for a third term. Participants discussed the state of the province over the past three years and future challenges. A panoramic view of the province was designed in a very original manner as a virtual "sightseeing flight" with "OSFS Airlines" over sites in Bavaria, Upper Austria, Vienna, Switzerland, and North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Gymnasium Fockenfeld of the De Sales Oblates celebrated its 70th anniversary on 18 September 2016. The Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Rudolf Voderholzer of Regensburg. In his homily, Bishop Voderholzer paid tribute to the De Sales Oblates, who have been involved in this school for 70 years. He described the history of the school as a "success story" because nearly 600 alumni of the school have been ordained to the priesthood.

The "Salesianische Weggemeinschaft" (Salesian Companionship) is a group of lay people from Vienna, who want to live their lives on the basis of the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. They meet monthly to talk about a Salesian topic. Recent topics include "Trust: *Non Excidet* - He Will Not Be Lost - the Motto of St. Francis de Sales"; "The Imitation of Christ according to St. Francis de Sales"; and "To Forgive the Offenders: Dealing With Insults according to St. Francis de Sales." Fr. Winklehner serves as the group leader.

Fr. Winklehner and Adelinde Heidenreich have completed the German translation of the retreat talks of Blessed Louis Brisson for the professed sisters of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales. The talks, covering from 1873 to 1889 (over 500 pages), have been published on the website, [www.louisbrisson.org](http://www.louisbrisson.org). They are now working on the German translation of the retreat talks for the novices of the Oblate Sisters.

On 29 November 2016, Fr. Herbert Winklehner, OSFS, gave a presentation, entitled “Devotion to God, Who Is Love,” focusing on the essential aspects of Salesian spirituality, at the Vienna University of Agricultural Sciences.

#### SISTERS OF THE VISITATION

Over a period of five months (15 May-16 October 2016), visitors had the opportunity to visit the cloister of the former monastery of the Visitation Sisters in Beuerberg, Bavaria. The Diocesan Museum in Freising organized the exhibit, “Enclosed Religious Orders – About Life in the Monastery.” Since the provenance of almost all exhibited items was the Visitation Sisters, visitors were given a good idea of the life of this community who live the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane Frances de Chantal. One important insight was that Salesian spirituality is, above all, a spirituality of little things and influences all areas of everyday life. There was also an “Archive of Memories,” a special room where visitors could see continuously playing video recordings of the Visitation Sisters, in which they talk about their vision of Salesian spirituality, about St. Francis de Sales and about life in a religious community. For further information about this exhibit, see <https://www.dimu-freising.de/klausur-vom-leben-im-kloster/>

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the *Treatise on the Love of God*, Fr. Winklehner gave monthly talks on the twelve books of the *Treatise* at the Visitation monastery in Vienna in 2016. Topics included “Beauty, Harmony and the Dynamics of Love”; “Love Is Friendship with God”; “The Eternal Kiss of Glory”; “Under the Ashes the Glow”; “The Two Engines of Love”; “From Heart to Heart”; “The Ecstasy of Action”; “Recognizing the Will of God and Following It”; “God’s Will Is Always God’s Love”; and “The Measure of Love Is to Love without Measure”.

Léonie Martin (1863-1941) was one of the biological sisters of the doctor of the church, St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-97), and a daughter of the saintly couple Zélie (1831-77) and Louis Martin (1823-92). After several failed attempts, Léonie joined the Visitation Sisters of Caen, France, in 1899, receiving the religious name Françoise-Thérèse. Her life combines in an impressive way Thérèse’s “little way” and Francis de Sales’s teaching about the “way of small steps.” On 25 April 2015, the coffin of Léonie Martin was opened, and on 2 July 2015, the

bishop of Bayeux and Lisieux, Jean-Claude Boulanger, opened the cause of her beatification. Sr. Françoise-Thérèse (Léonie) Martin, VHM, may now be called “Servant of God.” On 20 July 2015, her body was placed in a glass coffin and moved from the crypt to the chapel of the Visitation Monastery of Caen. For additional information, see [www.leonimartin.org](http://www.leonimartin.org) (English), or [www.leonie-martin.fr](http://www.leonie-martin.fr) (French).

The Monastery of the Visitation at Vienna, is preparing for its 300th anniversary, which will be celebrated 13-14 May 2017. The foundation stone of the monastery was laid in 1717. It is the only monastery of the Visitation in the German-speaking world that was originally built as a Visitation monastery and still exists. A series of talks and presentations are planned, focusing on the biographies of Francis de Sales and Jane Frances de Chantal, the history of the foundation of the Visitation in general and the history of the Vienna monastery in particular, and the distinctive features of Salesian spirituality. A Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving, will be celebrated by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, OP, archbishop of Vienna, on 6 June 2017. At this time, a commemorative publication will also be presented. For further information, see the monastery’s website, which has been redesigned for this anniversary: [www.salesianerinnen.at](http://www.salesianerinnen.at)

The annual meeting of younger sisters of the Visitation of the German Federation took place at the monastery of Zangberg, Bavaria, 28-30 October 2016. The topic was: “‘Culture of Encounter’ and ‘Revolution of Tenderness’ (Pope Francis).” During this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the sisters focused on the importance of mercy in the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. At this meeting, consideration was given to how to celebrate the 450th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales’s birth, as well as 350 years of the Visitation Sisters in Bavaria in 2017. For more detailed information, see the German Federation of the Visitation Sisters’ website: [www.heimsuchungsschwestern.de](http://www.heimsuchungsschwestern.de).

The Visitation Sisters are currently preparing for a General Chapter, which is scheduled to take place in Annecy, France, 19-27 September 2017. At the chapter, the sisters will consider the current situation of the Visitation Order worldwide and the future of the Visitation monastery at Annecy. In particular, the Order’s statutes will be revised in light of the Apostolic Letter *Vultum Dei Quaerere* (To Seek the Face of God), which treats the contemplative life in religious orders of women.

#### THE SAGA OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES’S RING

The episcopal ring, which St. Francis de Sales wore at his death in the Visitation monastery of Lyon, France, on 28 December 1622, considered lost for many years, has now been recovered. The story of its odyssey is similar to that of the relic of the heart of St. Francis de Sales. The Sisters of the Visitation of Lyon took

the ring with them, when they fled during the French Revolution to Italy. The ring accompanied the sisters in their further escape from Italy to the Czech Republic and Vienna. The sisters left the ring in the Vienna Visitation monastery as an expression of their gratitude for the kind hospitality that they received when they were traveling to Venice and finally to Treviso, Italy. In 1995, the Visitation sisters of Vienna gave this ring to the archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Hans-Hermann Groer (1919-2003), who entrusted it to the former archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Joachim Meisner. When Cardinal Groer died in 2003, Cardinal Meisner celebrated the funeral Mass, and on that occasion, he brought the ring back to Austria. It is now preserved in the archives of the Priory of the Benedictines in Maria Roggendorf, Lower Austria.

#### OBLATE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The 400th anniversary of the publication of the *Treatise on the Love of God* was the focus of the so-called "Oblate Prayer," a periodic meeting of members of the Salesian family in Vienna. On 4 April 2016, the meeting took place in the house of St. Genoveva of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales in Vienna. Fr. Winklehner gave an introduction to the *Treatise*, focusing on its origin, purpose, structure, and meaning. The gathering concluded on the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, with the celebration of the Eucharist. In his homily, Fr. Winklehner spoke about St. Francis de Sales's insights into the Annunciation, specifically Our Lady's humility and devotion and how these two virtues are the recipe for a successful relationship with God and a happy life in general for every Christian.

Sr. Maria Rita von Rickenbach, OSFS, was elected as the new Superior General of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales on 1 August 2016, during the General Chapter of the Oblate Sisters at the Motherhouse in Troyes, France. She succeeds Mother Françoise-Bernadette Beuzelin, OSFS, who was ineligible to be re-elected. Mother Maria Rita was born in Ingenbohl, Switzerland, in 1960. In 1977 she joined the Oblate Sisters, making her first profession in 1979 and perpetual profession in 1984. In recent years, she served as the Regional Superior of the Region comprised of France, Switzerland, and Italy.

#### SECULAR INSTITUTE OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

On 27 February 2016, Mrs. Maria Frauenknecht became an Associate member of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales during a Eucharistic celebration in the parish church of Gungolding, Bayern. In his homily, the parish priest, Fr. Michael Krüger, focused on a central theme of St. Francis de Sales: "Life is for God nothing else but love" (*Treatise*, Book 2, chap. 8): "I am deeply convinced that this love of Christ is the crucial point of every spiritual community, no matter how it is called. It is the crucial point in the life of the members of the Secular Institute of St. Francis as well as in the life of a parish. There are various

vocations in the Church and each can flourish by God's love, as the doctor of the Church wrote in his *Introduction to the Devout Life*, his masterpiece of spiritual direction."

The new General Director of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales, Iria Maria Urnau, visited Fr. Thomas Vanek, OSFS, Provincial of the German-Speaking Province of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, at the Provincial Residence in Vienna, Kaasgraben, Austria, on 26 September 2016. Iria Maria Urnau is a native of Canoas in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande de Sul. After her formation as an educator, she worked in parish ministry for fifty years and then for ten years in a kindergarten. She has been a member of the Secular Institute since 1991 and was elected General Director in 2015. Together with her predecessor, Angela Hauke, she visited the sisters of the Secular Institute in Germany and Austria in September 2016. She presented Fr. Vanek a copy of the history of the Secular Institute (founded in Vienna in 1964 by Fr. Franz Reisinger OSFS [1889-1973]) that she edited and that was published in 2014 to mark the Institute's 50th anniversary.

#### ASSOCIATION OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The Association of St. Francis de Sales has redesigned their website for the German-speaking countries (Germany, Austria and Switzerland): [www.franz-von-sales.org](http://www.franz-von-sales.org). A special highlight of the new website are the "Weekly Thoughts" from St. Francis de Sales that can be requested and are then delivered automatically via e-mail.

On 6 September 2016, Monika Fromme, who had a formative role in the Association of St. Francis de Sales in Germany, died. Born in 1923, she had been a member of the Association since 1955. For many years, she served as regional superior, organizing countless retreats, meetings, and pilgrimages to Annecy and Paris, as well as accompanying many Association members on their spiritual journey. She also provided a very special service to the Association by her conscientious translation work for many, many years.

#### THE NETHERLANDS

On 24 August 2016, the Dutch De Sales Oblates organized a special day to commemorate the completion of the Dutch Province. Henceforth, they are no longer a province but a community directly dependent on the Generalate of the De Sales Oblates. The Dutch Oblates express their gratitude for the presence, participation, and support of Frs. Aldino Kiesel, OSFS, Lewis Fiorelli, OSFS, Mark Mealey, OSFS, and Konrad Esser, OSFS.

On 16 September 2016, seventeen members from all eleven Salesian Circles met at Salesianum in Schijndel for the first of eight days, during which they will be trained to lead a Circle by themselves. The first session of the program, guided by Mirjam

Dirkx and Judith de Raat, consisted of an introduction and short biography of St. Francis de Sales, and focused on the Salesian theme, “God is love.” The program also included discussion and an exercise in listening.

On the feast of Bl. Louis Brisson, the Salesian Family met in Salesianum to learn more about the Good Mother, Mary de Sales Chappuis, VHM. After a short introduction, small groups discussed selections from her writings and sayings.

#### PHILIPPINES

Archbishop Ramón C. Argüelles of the archdiocese of Lipa, in preparing with the whole church in the Philippines for the fifth centenary of the first arrival of Christianity in Philippine soil, issued a decree, on 4 August 2016, commemorating the 450th anniversary of the birth of the *Doctor Divini Amoris* (Doctor of Divine Love). Highlighting the great spiritual legacy that St. Francis de Sales left to the Church, Archbishop Argüelles emphasized the saint’s two spiritual classics (*Introduction to the Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God*), and their importance for seminary formation, as well as for the laity as aids in leading a holy life.

#### SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

An international gathering of scholars of the Salesian Family took place in 2016 in Munich for their biannual symposium, “Salesian Forum.” This year’s theme was “Education in a Post-Christian Environment.”

The BNP Paribas Foundation in Germany has donated 30,000 Euros to support the work done by the Salesians on behalf of refugee children. This gift is intended, among other things, to finance a coordination center for part-time volunteers and to support the young refugees during the transition period between finishing school and beginning vocational training so as to facilitate their integration into German society and to help them improve their prospects for the future. Throughout Germany, there are numerous projects and facilities conducted by the Salesians for young refugees who are seeking asylum and who arrived in the country without their family.

Salesian scholar Fr. Eunan McDonnell, SDB, has been appointed as Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Patrick (Ireland and Malta) for a six-year term (2017-23). Fr. McDonnell made his first religious profession in 1982 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1992. He has served as Master of Novices (1995-99), School Director and later Director of the Oratory at Adigrat in Ethiopia (1999-2004), a Provincial Councilor, and Provincial Delegate for Vocations in Ireland. Fr. McDonnell is a contributing member of the International Salesian Scholars Seminar, to which he gave a plenary seminar in 2014 on “The Spirituality of the Cross in St. Francis de Sales.” He is the author

of *God Desires You: St. Francis de Sales on Living the Gospel* (2001) and *The Concept of Freedom in St. Francis de Sales* (2009), in addition to a number of scholarly articles on Salesian spirituality.

#### United States

##### INTERNATIONAL SALESIAN SCHOLARS SEMINAR

The biennial International Salesian Scholars Seminar took place 20-23 October 2016, at De Sales Resource Center, Stella Niagara, NY, with the theme, “Scripture in the Salesian Tradition.” The Seminar was devoted to discussion of the following research papers:

- Fr. Joseph Boenzi, SDB (Dominican School of Theology, Berkeley/Università Pontificia Salesiana, Rome), “Integrating Salesian Themes”
- Fr. Joseph F. Chorpenning, OSFS (Saint Joseph’s University Press/ICSS), “The Dynamics of Divine Love: Francis de Sales’s Picturing of the Biblical Mystery of the Visitation”
- Dr. Thomas Donlan (Brophy College Prep), “Francis de Sales’s Reform of the Militant Catholic Imagination”
- Dr. Christian S. Krokus (University of Scranton), “Vive Jesus! Reflections on Salesian Soteriology”
- Sr. Paula McCarthy, VHM (Visitation Monastery, Mendota Heights, MN), “The Canticle—Studied and Recited or Sung!” (SFS’ treatment of the Song as a young man and later in the *Treatise*)
- Dr. Terence McGoldrick (Providence College), “The Living Gospel, Francis de Sales: A Humanist Biblical Theologian of the Renaissance”
- Fr. Alexander T. Pocetto, OSFS (De Sales University), “‘Amorous Fear’ in Francis de Sales’s *Treatise on the Love of God*”
- Dr. Suzanne Toczyski (Sonoma State University), “*Je cite aucunes fois l’Ecriture Sainte: Female Figures of the Old and New Testaments in Francis de Sales’s Treatise on the Love of God*”
- Bro. Daniel P. Wisniewski, OSFS (De Sales University), “St. Jane de Chantal and Grief”: report on research in progress and discussion
- Dr. Wendy M. Wright (Creighton University), “‘I Have Called You Friends’: Francis de Sales and the Gospel of John”

The next Salesian Scholars Seminar is scheduled for 25-28 October 2018. For more information on the Salesian Scholars Seminar, including bibliographies of the Salesian publications of Seminar participants, go to: <http://embracedbygod.org/salesian-scholars-seminar-selected-bibliographies/>

### SECULAR INSTITUTE OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

After receiving a diagnosis of terminal cancer, Dana Elzi, Director of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales in the United States, resigned as Director in February 2016. Subsequently, Kathleen Tierney of Indianapolis, who works in parish ministry, was elected national Director. Susan Hammaker, an associate of the Secular Institute, and Fr. William Nessel, OSFS, Assistant Director, visited Dana on 16 April 2016. Fr. Nessel gave Dana the Sacrament of the Sick and Viaticum. A week later, on 23 April 2016, Dana died in her home in Middletown, PA. Fr. Edward J. Keating, Jr., pastor of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Middletown celebrated Dana's Mass of Christian Burial on 29 April 2016. Kathleen Tierney, Dorothy Kelly, a member of her council, and two associates of the Secular Institute attended the Mass.

### TOLEDO-DETROIT PROVINCE

*A to Z with St. Francis de Sales* is a short brochure developed for *Embraced by God* by Fr. John Graden, OSFS, that offers three quotes from Francis for each letter of the alphabet in an easy to read format (8 ½ x 14 inches). PDF format is provided on request and can be used digitally, or for copying or printing in large quantities with no further permission needed. Contact: [resources@EmbracedbyGod.org](mailto:resources@EmbracedbyGod.org)

The North American Salesian Network (NASN) met for the fourth year in April 2016. Sixteen Salesian organizations including two new members (Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and De Sales Secular Institute) were represented at the three-day meeting held at the Salesians of Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY. This gathering furthers the collaborative effort of sharing the Salesian charism and resources throughout North America. More information on NASN and links for individual organizations can be found at [www.salesianspirituality.com](http://www.salesianspirituality.com). *Embraced by God* continues to facilitate this annual gathering.

In addition to his position as Director of Formation for the North American provinces, Fr. John Loughran, OSFS, is now also serving as Mission Procurator for both provinces. He replaces Fr. John Hurley, OSFS, who died in July 2016 after serving admirably as Mission Procurator for many years and greatly expanding the number of mission appeals.

### WILMINGTON-PHILADELPHIA PROVINCE

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of De Sales University (DSU), the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture (SCF&C) at De Sales offered its first MOOC ("Massive Open Online Course") on the "Everyday Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales." The course, led by Fr. Thomas Dailey, OSFS, SCF&C director, delved into Salesian spirituality, covering topics such as "Salesian Pedagogy for a Devout Life," "Living Out the Will of God," and "Everyday

Spirituality Every Day." It was offered gratis, with all course materials also provided free during the 2016 Lenten season, specifically 10 February – 13 March, with over 1,200 enrollments. The results of a follow-up questionnaire indicated that the course was very well received.

Fr. Dailey joined Patrick Mulcahy, Producing Artistic Director of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, to speak about the common boundaries and common ground between the Bard and St. Francis de Sales. The discussion event on 27 July 2016 honored the memory of Fr. Gerard Schubert, OSFS, founding director of the Festival. Fr. Dailey also spoke about the Salesian approach to encountering God at a retreat for the faculty of Allentown Central Catholic High School.

DSU's "Salesian Inculturation" program conducted its sixth day-long retreat and one follow-up session (of four) for thirty-eight new full-time employees. The Salesian Center's assistant director, Lore McFadden, offered a presentation about the Salesian Center as part of the DSU freshman orientation program.

Under the guidance of Frs. Douglas Burns, OSFS, and Peter Leonard, OSFS, Ryan Leadership Institute continues its Salesian training of the next generation. The new cohort of ten students from the Class of 2018, joined by two alumni training as mentors, began the program with a retreat. The twelve students from the Class of 2017 have initiated their service projects and participated in one of six executive skill training sessions. New this year is the creation of an alumni component of the Institute, with twenty students participating in an inaugural Homecoming brunch.

The annual Ruggiero Lecture on Catholic Education continued to honor the legacy of St. Leonie Frances de Sales Aviat on 12 September 2016. Dr. Ryan Topping, a fellow at Thomas More College of the Liberal Arts, spoke on "Happiness, Culture, and Virtue: Re-Stating the Case for Catholic Education." The text of his lecture is available online through the SCF&C.

Under the direction of Fr. Timothy McIntire, OSFS, and Mr. Thomas Vresics, a faculty member at Salesianum School and founding director of the Lehigh Valley chapter of the Salesian Lay Association of Men (SLAM), this association continued to meet at Wills Hall. The thirty-nine-member chapter was invited to the opening year retreat and one day of reflection to date.

De Sales Spirituality Services continues to post new and familiar homiletic resources on its website for both Sundays and weekdays: Sundays Salesian and Salesian Sunday Reflections and Homily Helps (also available in Spanish.) In addition, Spirituality Matters offers daily reflections in a Sunday-to-Saturday format. Fr. Michael Murray, OSFS, who provides these

services, is now working at Salesianum School, where he serves in a newly-created position with special emphasis on ministering to staff, faculty, alumni, and parents. Fr. Murray will add support to the already existing programs for disseminating Salesian spirituality to faculty, staff, alumni, and parents. In September 2016, he offered a presentation to Salesianum's Board of Trustees on the sources and impact of optimism in the Salesian tradition. This was a first step in the programmatic Salesian formation of Salesianum board members over a six-year cycle.

## Publications

### BOOKS

#### ENGLISH

John L. Graden, OSFS, *Letting Go, Hanging On. A Guide for the Spiritual Journey* (Paulist Press, 2015). "Graden offers the warm Salesian message: you are a beloved child of God created to love and be loved . . . it is about self-reflection, about discerning the unnecessary and obstructive clutter with which we have filled our lives and hearts and figuring out which attachments are good and true and which are false" (from the Foreword by Wendy M. Wright). Available at [www.EmbracedbyGod.org](http://www.EmbracedbyGod.org).

Patrick Madrid, *On a Mission: Lessons from St. Francis de Sales* (Servant Books, 2013), 153pp.

Margaret Margeton, *In a Nutshell: St. Francis de Sales' Treatise on the Love of God* (Stella Niagara, NY: De Sales Resource Center, 2016). A Daughter of St. Francis de Sales, Margeton has written "this nutshell version" of the *Treatise* "simply to present some highlights of St. Francis's essential teaching" for those readers who may find the original work to be too massive and impenetrable and/or may lack the serious and dedicated study and time that the *Treatise* requires. It is the author's "hope that having been given a very brief overview of some of the main ideas of the *Treatise*, readers will be motivated to go directly to the entire work and to discover for themselves the insights, beauty, and power of the writing of this marvelous saint" (ix). Available at [www.EmbracedbyGod.org](http://www.EmbracedbyGod.org).

#### GERMAN

*Heilige und die Barmherzigkeit* (Saints of Mercy), ed. Päpstlicher Rat zur Förderung der Neuevangelisierung [Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization], (Ostfildern: Schwabenverlag, 2015). Although St. Francis de Sales is not included in this book, several saints linked to the Salesian tradition are, e.g., Vincent de Paul, John Bosco, and Thérèse of Lisieux.

*Klausur – Vom Leben im Kloster. Eine Dokumentation des Diözesanmuseums Freising* (Enclosed Religious Orders – About Life in Monastery. A Documentation of the Diocesan Museum Freising), ed. Christoph Kürzeder, photography by Thomas Dashuber (Munich: Verlag Antje Kunstmann, 2016). This book

opens a window into the cloistered world of a monastery by hundreds of color photos. The Visitation Monastery of Beuerberg, which was closed in 2014, is prominently featured with many photos from this monastery. The Visitation monastery in Dietramszell, Bavaria is also mentioned.

Paul-Werner Scheele, *Unsere Mutter. Eine kleine Marienkunde* [Our Mother: A Small Mariology] (Würzburg: Echter Verlag, 2015). The former bishop of Würzburg, Bavaria, summarizes many aspects and themes related to Mary in light of the Second Vatican Council: Mary as part of God's people in the Old Testament, Mary in the mystery of Jesus Christ and the Church, and Mary and the Holy Trinity. The author also quotes Francis de Sales.

#### PORTUGUESE

*Jubileu Instituto Secular São Francisco de Sales. 50 Anos "Florescer onde Deus te plantou"* SFS (Jubilee of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales. 50 Years "Bloom where God planted you" SFDS), ed. Irina Maria Urnau (Canoas: TecnoArte, 2014). A history of the Secular Institute of St. Francis de Sales, its genesis, and its development, especially in Brazil.

### ARTICLES

#### ENGLISH

Terence McGoldrick, "The Ascent of Marriage as Vocation and Sacrament: Francis de Sales's Christian Humanist Theology of Marriage: A New and Old Vision between Two Competing Traditions on the Highest Vocation from the Apostolic Church to Erasmus," *Salesianum* 77/2 (2015):207-49.

William Nessel, OSFS, "Salesian Reflections on Divine Mercy," *Homilectic & Pastoral Review*: <http://ww.hprweb.com/2016/4/salesian-reflection-on-divine>.

Daniel F. Stramara, Jr., "St. Francis de Sales and the Maternal Love of God," *Magistra*, 21/2 (Winter 2015): 3-27.

Anthony Valungal, "Fruits of 'Live Jesus' in Priestly Ministry," *Indian Journal of Spirituality*, 27/3 (July-Sept. 2015): 212-34.

Thomas Worcester, "St. Francis de Sales and Jesuit Rhetorical Education," in *Traditions of Eloquence: The Jesuits and Modern Rhetorical Studies*, ed. Cinthia Garnett and John C. Berenton (New York: Fordham University Press, 2016), 102-15. A close reading and important analysis of Francis's 1604 letter on preaching to André Frémyot in its historical context.

#### GERMAN

Herbert Winklehner OSFS, „Pfarrgemeinde mit Herz. Zum Jahr der Barmherzigkeit“ (A Parish with Heart. On the Occasion of the Year of Mercy), in *Miteinander. Neues aus der Pfarre Franz von Sales* (Together. News from the Parish of St. Francis de Sales) No. 2 (2016): 2.