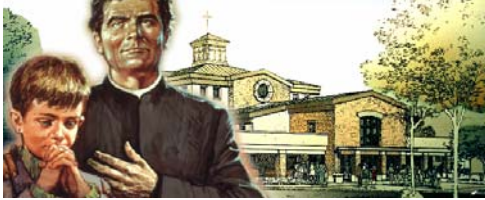


ST. DOMINIC SAVIO YOUTH MINISTRY

Our Mission



Youth Ministry Mission Statement

(created by our young people!!)

We, the Youth of St Dominic Savio Parish, are called by Jesus Christ to minister to all our brothers and sisters in our parish, especially the young, in the spirit of St John Bosco. By living out the spirit of the gospel, we are committed to help foster the development of personal, spiritual, and the intellectual maturity of our youth enriched by our cultural diversities.

We challenge the youth to be witnesses of God while embracing the Salesian values of honesty, responsibility, self-respect and compassion in service.

United in Christ, we strive to provide and grow into a community living the Catholic faith that evangelizes by forming young people to grow in their respective vocations; serves the community, recognizes the presence of God in creation and especially in every person, nurtures friendship with Christ and others, and encourages sharing in prayer and worship in their life of faith.

Who are the Salesians?



We, the Salesians of Don Bosco, are an **international organization of men dedicated full time to the service of young people**, especially those who are poorer and disadvantaged.

Wherever we work, 'Youth Resource Development' through **education and evangelization** is the focus of all our concerns - because we believe that our total dedication to the young is our best gift to humanity.

Founded by St. John Bosco, an Italian saint-educator of the nineteenth century, we are in 128 different nations.

Journey with the young...be a part of the adventure!

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Who is St. John Bosco?



The history of our society can be traced to an obscure village in the north of Italy called **Becchi**.

Our history began, we may say, when little John Bosco dreamed a very strange dream at the age of 9. Or we may date the origins of our society to a surprise encounter that brought him face to face with a frightened street urchin in a church sacristy on the 8th of December **1841**. Or perhaps to the little band of 17 young men to whom Don Bosco first gave the title 'Salesians' on the 26th of January, **1854**.

But these historical facts barely explain our international existence as a 'family' of nearly 402,500 members in the **service of young people**.

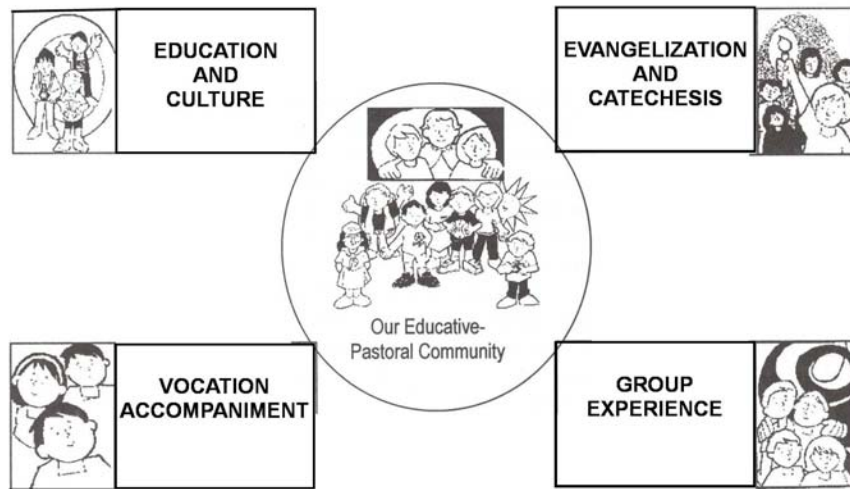
*With a feeling of humble gratitude we believe that the **Society of St. Francis de Sales** came into being not as a merely human venture but by the **initiative of God**.*
(source: Const. Art. 1)

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For more information about **SJB** [click here](#)

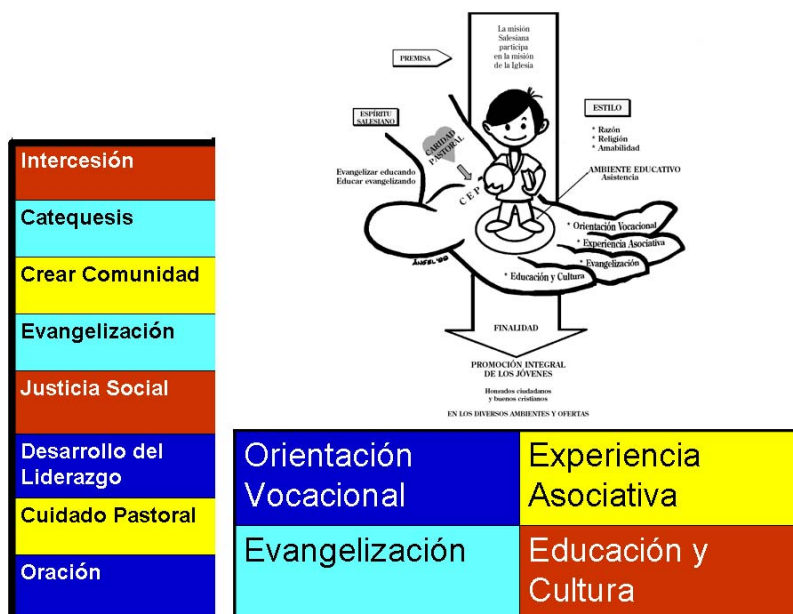
How do we do youth Ministry?

Our main goal is to accompany young people in their process of growing as good Christians and honest Citizens. St. Dominic Savio Youth Ministry uses the four dimensions of growth: **Human Growth** (also called: Education and Culture), **Spiritual Growth** (also called: Evangelization and Catechesis), **Intrapersonal Growth as individuals**, with emphasis on the ability to choose and decide (also called: Vocation-orientation), and **Interpersonal Growth as members of the community**, with emphasis on the ability to relate with others (also called Group-Experience). Every activity that we do is intentional and makes connection with our main mission.



Also, because we work in United States of America we follow and use “Renewing the Vision” which was conceived by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “Renewing the Vision” is a framework for Catholic Youth Ministry and presents a model for Comprehensive Youth Ministry which involves 8 components that are: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Social Justice, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care and Prayer and Worship.

If we synthesize the four dimensions of a Salesian Youth Ministry with Comprehensive Youth Ministry we find that one is related to the other, as demonstrated by the following graphic:



The colors match and show how the 4 dimensions of Salesian Youth Ministry go hand-in-hand with the 8 components of youth ministry. For further information on the [4 components of youth ministry click here](#), and for [renewing the vision click here](#).

The Youth Ministry Grid of St. Dominic Savio

	YM		Family		Parish		Community	
	Gathered	Non Gathered	Gathered	Non Gathered	Gathered	Non Gathered	Gathered	Non Gathered
Advocacy	Act. 1		Act.2				Act.3/7	
Catechesis	Act.12		Act. 9					
Community Life	Act. 1				Act.13			
Evangelization							Act.8	
Social Justice					Act. 4			
Leadership Development	Act.11						Act.8	
Pastoral Care				Act.10		Act. 5		
Prayer and worship					Act. 6		Act.13	

Activity 1: Pan de Vida is a Soup Kitchen we go to in East LA to distribute food to the poor; this activity is done once a month.

Activity 2: Confirmation Retreat is a spiritual retreat wherein we involve parents of the *confirmandi* so they hear from teenagers. It is a moment for exchanging and sharing different points of view.

Activity 3: In Lent the young people offer a prayer service for immigrants, in this prayer service we get the whole parish community involved.

Activity 4: Visiting group is a group that visits the elderly and the needy. It is nice to see how our youth ministry gets involved with the community and best helps young people to be more human.

Activity 5: Greeting group is a group that sends birthday cards to every young person that belongs to the youth ministry or whose name is submitted to the group.

Activity 6: Prayer Service Youth Group is a group that meets once a month to intercede for young people.

Activity 7: Walk-a-thons: Twice a year we invite young people to walk for ARC and for the cancer association.

Activity 8: Camp Savio is a day camp that helps children develop their leadership skills and enjoy wholesome summer fun.

Activity 9: Quinceañera Retreat is a retreat for parents and girls who want to celebrate their fifteen birthday with solemnity.

Activity 10: In the website we have a place where teenagers can go and submit their petitions; this is nice because we have a group of people that pray for those teens.

Activity 11: SYLC which is a leadership training week.

Activity 12: This is our regular youth group meeting which is every Monday and Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Activity 13: This is our regular Sunday youth mass, where teenagers are able to worship with and minister to the rest of the parish community.

Activity 14: International Breakfast, we invite the different parish groups to donate food and help us sell it on Sundays. So adults cook and teens serve.

These are some examples of what we do in our Youth Ministry. Should you want to see all the activities that we have at St. Dominic Savio YM, I invite you to visit our website at www.saintdominicsavio.org

How do we create a Parish Youth Ministry?



Looking through all the stuff that goes on in our parish, you could probably be asking yourself: is this guy crazy? How can he/she do so many things? They probably spend a lot of money!

Well this is a simple answer to your questions: we do not spend a lot of money. The way we create activities is really simple.

The only thing we try to do is be open to new ideas. Remember every person has his/her own gift. A girl comes to me and says, “I’d love to visit elderly people” so I say to her. “Well, if you love it so much, how about working with me to form a group of teens who will go and visit elderly people?” She probably gets scared but I motivate and support her

to realize her goal. This can be done with young people and adults as well. And this is why we have so many youth groups.

New Projects!

St. Dominic Savio Parish has started a new program which combines confirmation and youth ministry. The first year of preparation for confirmation is usually the first year of high school which makes confirmation preparation difficult. High school freshmen are caught up trying to adapt to their new high school life and are challenged so much that formal confirmation preparation becomes difficult to cope with.

After the experience of so much “Drama” ;) we decided to add one more year to our confirmation program so the first year of preparation is just YOUTH MINISTRY. Here we invite kids to come once a week to any of our church’s youth ministry activities and only once a month are they required to come to a confirmation catechetical class.

In their second year they will go through a program of evangelization and in their third year their program will be discipleship. Then they will come back to help in the youth ministry program. Now days we have a group of post confirmation teens that help with the confirmation program.