The Salesian Center for Faith & Culture enjoyed its third year of operation. Its goals continue to be: to sponsor successful programs, to make its presence more widely known, and to get additional people involved in its work.

This report offers a glimpse of how the Salesian Center met these goals during the current academic year. It also suggests directions for the future. Further details about what is reported here can be found on the Salesian Center’s web site <www4.desales.edu/SCFC>.

Program Review for 2002-2003

MISSION (concerned with promoting the interaction of faith & culture)

The director led seven (7) orientation sessions for various personnel at DeSales University (as shown in the graph below). Over 125 persons learned about the Salesian approach to education.

The director spoke about the interaction of faith (virtue) and culture (education) is the keynote address for the honors convocation at Immaculata University. The lecture is also published on the Salesian Center’s web site.
The director wrote four (4) op-ed pieces, one of which was published in The Morning Call newspaper and another that has recently been sent to Catholic newspapers. The articles are also published on the Salesian Center’s web site.

The director penned a commentary (“On a Spiritual Note”) in each of five issues of On the Boards, the playbill for the Act One Performing Arts series (drama and dance). The commentaries are also published on the Salesian Center’s web site.

BACKGROUND (concerned with the tradition of Salesian spirituality)

The Salesian Center made available on its web site Fr. Pocetto’s translation of the letter of Pope John Paul II on the 400th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of St. Francis de Sales.

Fr. Pocetto was selected as this year’s Newman Lecturer at Lehigh University. His lecture, on Francis de Sales’ educational experience in Paris, is published on the Salesian Center’s web site. Fr. Pocetto also delivered Salesian presentations to the faculties at Fr. Judge and Northeast Catholic high schools.

Fr. Dailey offered five (5) spiritual conferences or retreats on Salesian spirituality.

The Salesian Center is directing this year’s annual faculty workshop, on the theme of the little virtue of “hospitality.”

PERSONNEL (concerned with members, staff, and advisors)

The Community Council of the Salesian Center (a committee of the President’s Council) met twice during the year and enlisted the participation of two new committee members.

The Review Committee of the Salesian Center was established, with ten (10) members selected from the faculty and administrative/professional staff at DSU. This committee met twice during the academic year.

The Alumni Task Force (a committee of the Alumni Council) was established, with fifteen (15) members. This task force met once this year.

ACTIVITIES (concerned with research, dialogue, and partnership programs)

Research Activities

The Salesian Scholars Seminar was once again hosted by the DeSales Resource Center in Stella Niagara (NY). Both Frs. Dailey and Pocetto presented papers at this event. Fr. Pocetto’s paper has been submitted for publication in Salesianum.

As part of its “adopt a monastery” program, and in conjunction with the Residence Life staff and Campus Ministry, the director of the Salesian Center devised a “special interest housing” plan for the Alacoque Center. Seven (7) students were selected to live in this house. Fr. Dailey met with the
residents on a monthly basis to discuss Salesian spirituality. Students in the Alacoque House participated in several activities in conjunction with the Visitation Monastery in Tyringham (MA), including regular correspondence with the Sisters and one weekend visit to the monastery each semester. Reports from both the students and the Sisters remain enthusiastic. Working with Campus Ministry, the students also hosted “Sacred Heart” devotions on the First Fridays in each semester and participated, individually and/or collectively, in service projects.

The **Faith & Reason Honors Program** was inaugurated. The Review Committee selected the freshman class of nine students. The first seminar in the program (LS 401 – “Conversations on Personhood”) was approved and offered in the Spring 2003 semester. A report on the program was written and presented at the Faith & Reason Colloquium in Washington (DC) on March 20, 2003.

**Dialogue Activities**

Two **lecture series** affiliated with the Salesian Center were continued on their annual basis:

- The **Aviat Lecture on Catholic Education** was inaugurated by Dr. James Cusimano, with 46 people in attendance.

- The **Kraft Lecture**, in connection with the Patron’s Day celebrations, was delivered by Prof. Jay Dolan, with approximately 110 people in attendance.

The **Breakfast Club** reading and discussion series was continued and opened to all full-time personnel. For the Fall semester club, members (five faculty) discussed two books along with Pope John Paul II’s “Letter to Artists.” In the Spring semester, members (four faculty and one professional staff) discussed three books; each participant also wrote a concluding essay, which is published on the Center’s web site.

The **Center Valley Forum** discussion series on contemporary topics was continued. Five sessions were held with a total number of 421 participants. (The following graph shows the topic and number of participants for each forum.) The discussion on “The Bishop Today,” held in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the episcopal consecration of St. Francis de Sales, received significant coverage in *The Morning Call* newspaper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judge Candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Just War</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roe v. Wade</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>A Bishop Today</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td>War in Iraq</td>
<td>52</td>
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The **I.M.P.A.C.T. breakfast series** for corporate/professional leaders in the area was continued. Four meetings have been held with a total number of 93 participants. (The following graph shows the featured speaker’s focus and number of participants for each meeting.) The last meeting of the year is scheduled for June 3, 2003.

![I.M.P.A.C.T. breakfast series](image)

The **“Salesian Spirit” essay contest** for the university community was resurrected. Five (5) students, the largest number ever, submitted essays. The two winning entries are published on the Salesian Center’s web site.

The inaugural **“Soundings”** theatre discussion was held in conjunction with the arena stage production of *The Trojan Women*. Some 30 people participated in a “talk-back” format with the performers.

**Partnership Activities**

In collaboration with folks from various apostolates and associations related to Salesian spirituality, the **Salesian Online** program, inaugurated in the Summer of 2002, was continued with four more courses. Participants in the non-credit continuing education courses hail from 14 different states in the USA, and 1 student participated from South Africa!
Working with Dr. Michael Krajsa, instructor in the DSU Business Department, the Salesian Center collaborated in several ways:

- In conjunction with the Students in Free Enterprise organization (SIFE) on campus, the Salesian Center sponsored a panel discussion on business ethics. Over 70 students participated.
- In conjunction with the MBA program, the Salesian Center took initial steps toward the creation of an affiliated institute to be known as: A.L.I.V.E. – A Leadership Institute in Virtue Ethics.
  - MBA students in the “Marketing Management” class, working in two teams, created professional marketing plans for this institute.
  - An MIT student, working on an independent study project at DSU, began to create a dedicated web site for this institute.

With grant funding from the Metanexus Institute on Science & Religion, the Salesian Center has begun to form The Baranzano Society, a working group of scholars and professionals in both areas, whose work will focus on bioethical questions. This local society initiative will begin formally in the Fall of 2003 and continue as a three-year project. The work of the society will include electronic discussions, annual conferences, public forums, and print publications.

**LIBRARY** *(concerned with materials related to the work of the Center)*

The electronic publications on the Salesian Center web site were re-designed. Several new works were added in each of the following categories:

- bulletins (from the IMPACT breakfast series)
- commentaries (“On a Spiritual Note” series / op-ed publications)
- lectures & papers
- Salesian Studies

The “Carl & Peggy Frensky Collection” continues to be expanded with new acquisitions.

**Special collections** related to the activity of the Faith & Reason Honors Program and of the Baranzano Society has been established.

**DEVELOPMENT** *(concerned with financing the work of the Center)*

**Contributions** to DeSales University for the Salesian Center came in two areas:

- as part of the university’s *Annual Fund*, amounting to approximately $5,800 and including six (6) new donors;
- as part of the university’s *Capital Campaign*, with a pledge from the Wills Hall Community for $100,000 toward the Salesian Center’s endowment.
Funding from grants for the Salesian Center include:

- receipt of the second installment of five, in the amount of $15,000, from the *Fides et Ratio competition*, in support of the Faith & Reason Honors Program;

- receipt of the first installment of three, in the amount of $5,000, from the *Metanexus Institute on Science & Religion*, in support of The Baranzano Society; the university has agreed to provide matching funds for this $15,000 total grant, though this matching grant has been taken from the Salesian Center endowment;

- a proposal, in the amount of $20,000, to the *Raskob Foundation*, in support of the renovation of the Salesian Center site (awaiting decision).

Events held specifically on behalf of the Salesian Center succeeded more in raising awareness than in raising funds!

- A reception for the inaugural Aviat Lecture on Catholic Education was attended by 46 persons. The relatively small endowment for this lecture series is not yet sufficient to cover costs.

- A reception for the Bishops’ panel discussion was attended by 70 persons. Costs for the reception and discussion exceeded donations by $1,000.

Each issue of *On the Boards*, the playbill for the ACT ONE Performing arts series (drama and dance), contained an updated advertisement for the Salesian Center.

### Looking Ahead to 2003-2004

In terms of *MISSION* ...

The operation of the Salesian Center has been growing steadily over three years. Lack of an identifiable space associated with the Center has been a concern in terms of identity and efficiency.

**Objective** – working with the Vice-President for Administration and the Director of Facilities Management, oversee the completion of planned renovations and move in to the facility at 6231 Landis Mill Road.

Orientation of DSU personnel to the tradition of Salesian spirituality is essential to fulfilling the mission of the university. While the orientation sessions directed by the Salesian Center have been informative, the concern is that the orientation process remains rather limited.

**Objective** – working with appropriate administrative supervisors and the Manager of Employment and Benefits, develop plans for a more extensive orientation to Salesian spirituality for all new personnel at DSU.
In terms of PERSONNEL ...

The successful growth of the programs and activities of the Salesian Center is on-track with the initial five-year plan. **Staffing plans** are now a concern in as much as the continued development of the Salesian Center requires more time and effort than the present half-time administration.

**Objective** – working with the Vice-President for Development and the Vice-President for Administration, grow the endowment for the Salesian Center to levels that will provide for a full-time Director and a part-time Administrative Assistant.

The Salesian Center has benefited well from the work of its two present members. Increasing the academic profile of the Center through additional **members** is now a concern.

**Objectives** – working with the Vice-President for Development, grow the funds for an endowed chair in Salesian Studies to provide for part-time visiting scholars and/or a full-time professorship; working with the President, identify and arrange for two visiting scholars to work in the Salesian Center during the 2003-2004 academic year.

In terms of ACTIVITIES ...

To-date, the Salesian Center has been able to pursue only one significant research project. Nevertheless, this remains a concern, particularly in terms of **research** into the tradition of Salesian spirituality.

**Objective** – working with the Provincial Superior of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, devise a plan for funding and administering research projects that focus specifically on the Salesian tradition.

The **“adopt a monastery” program**, inaugurated in 2002-2003, is quite distinctive and has realized a strong initial success. The concern now is to maintain the vitality of this program and, to the extent possible, increase participation in it.

**Objective** – working with the Residence Life staff at DSU and the superiors of Visitation monasteries, expand the possibilities for interaction with DSU students.

With grant funding for support, the **Faith & Reason Honors Program** has been inaugurated. The concern now is to initiate the second year of the program.

**Objectives** – working with the Dean of Enrollment Management and the Salesian Center’s Review Committee, identify and select a new freshman class of honors students; introduce the second academic seminar in the series.

Given the specific mission of the Salesian Center, the **Salesian Online** program holds great potential for disseminating Salesian spirituality, as well as for providing limited funding to the Center. The concern now is to increase awareness of and participation in this program.

**Objective** – working with Oblate personnel, add new courses, increase the number of participants, and extend the reach of the program worldwide.
The various “dialogue” programs have been the most successful ventures to-date for the Salesian Center. The concern now is to raise the profile of these worthwhile events.

**Objective** – continue successful programs from last year (i.e., the Breakfast Club, the Center Valley Forum, and the IMPACT series), increase participation in them, and investigate funding opportunities by which to guarantee their future.

As the Salesian Center becomes better known in the region, possibilities for creating partnership programs increase. The concern now is to take advantage of growing interest in collaborative ventures.

**Objectives** – inaugurate The Baranzano Society; pursue plans to establish A Leadership Institute in Virtue Ethics; investigate the possibility of an online program in Catholic Social Teaching.

In terms of the **LIBRARY** ...

The renovation of a space dedicated to the Salesian Center allows for the establishment of a small library of related works. The concern now is to grow the collections and make them available for use by personnel of the Center.

**Objectives** – house and catalogue the various collections (Frensky, Baranzano Society, Faith & Reason) in the Salesian Center; increase acquisitions for all collections.

A primary focus of the Salesian Center's work is academic research into the Salesian tradition. The concern remains to make this Center the focal point of such research throughout the scholarly world.

**Objective** – working with the Provincial Superior of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, arrange for the theological library of the OSFS to be housed at DeSales University.

In terms of **DEVELOPMENT** ...

The Salesian Center has been somewhat successful in receiving funds designated for specific programs. The concern now is to manage these funds in appropriate ways.

**Objective** – working with the Associate Vice-President for Finance and Treasurer, establish specific line items in the Salesian Center budget for program endowments and for temporary restricted accounts (grant funding).

The Salesian Center was begun with a generous financial endowment from DSU. The concern now is to coordinate ways in which to grow the endowments as a means of providing continuous funds for the staffing of the Center and for some of its programs.

**Objective** – working with the Vice-President for Development, devise a fund-raising plan for the Salesian Center that will outline administrative responsibilities and strategic initiatives.

The Salesian Center has benefited from modest grant funding. The concern now is to identify and cultivate new sources of funding.
Objective – working with the new Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations, investigate and pursue grant funding for the programs of the Salesian Center, with particular attention to these new ventures: A Leadership Institute in Virtue Ethics; the Baranzano Society (supplemental grant); an online program in Catholic Social Teaching.

The Salesian Center has been modestly successful at raising awareness of its work. The concern remains to attract more people to support this work.

Objectives – working with the Development Office staff, host three fund-raising events associated with Salesian Center activities (the Aviat Lecture on Catholic Education on September 15, 2003, an “open house” for the new site of the Salesian Center on January 24, 2004, and the “Soundings” theatre discussion in April 2004); publish a semi-annual newsletter about Salesian Center programs and events.

Prioritized List of Objectives:

#1 Move in to the new Salesian Center site.
#2 Devise strategic plan for Development.
#3 Provide for staffing in the Salesian Center.
#4 Continue successful “dialogue” programs.
#5 Inaugurate new “partnership” programs.
#6 Write grant proposals for new programs.
#7 Arrange for visiting scholars.
#8 Expand the Salesian Online program.
#9 Expand Faith & Reason Honors program.
#10 Expand the “adopt a monastery” program.
#11 Host fund-raising events.
#12 Devise new orientation plan.
#13 Devise plan for Salesian research projects.
#14 Increase Center’s library collections.
#15 Obtain OSFS theological library.
#16 Re-organize Salesian Center budget lines.