April 2, 2005 marked a turning point in modern history.

Pope John Paul II

the third longest reigning pontiff of all time, died ... and the world mourned.

The establishment of the Salesian Center for Faith & Culture was inspired by this pope’s intellectual genius and magisterial dynamism.

With prayers that this Servant of the Servants of God may rejoice forever in heaven, and that he may soon be recognized among the saints we celebrate on earth, the Salesian Center re-dedicates its efforts to respond to what Pope John Paul II once claimed to be the greatest challenge to our era, namely the growing separation between faith and reason, between the Gospel and culture.
The report that follows highlights the ways in which the Salesian Center continues to integrate faith and culture in terms of its various programs and activities.

This review of our events from the 2004-2005 academic year is structured according to the following components:

- **Personnel** – concerned with the members, staff, and advisors of the Center
- **Mission & Background** – concerned with promoting the tradition of Salesian spirituality
- **Activities** – concerned with particular programs sponsored by the Center in areas of
  - research
  - dialogue
  - partnership
- **Publications** – concerned with writings and resources connected to the work of the Center
- **Development** – concerned with financing the work of the Center

The report also suggests directions for the future growth and development of the Center in terms of the areas noted above.

Further details about what is reported here can be found on our expanding web site at www4.desales.edu/SCFC.
Program Review for 2004-2005

PERSONNEL

The work of the Salesian Center is blessed by the efforts of faculty and staff at DeSales University, as well as strategic counsel from professionals in the Lehigh Valley.

Members fulfill a variety of roles in the work of the Salesian Center:

- Operations are conducted by two regular members: Fr. Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S., a professor of Theology, serves in the half-time position as Director, and Fr. Alexander Pocetto, O.S.F.S., a retired vice-president, serves as the Senior Salesian Scholar.

- This year, the Center was fortunate to welcome Nancy O’Keeffe to the full-time staff position of administrative assistant. She was aided by the work of two students: Lauren Coticchio (marketing) and Achille Scache (programs).

- Students involved in programs of the Salesian Center are considered junior members. Presently 37 students participate in the Center’s honors program, and 14 students have joined the Center’s leadership institute.

- The Center was pleased to add Frank & Jane Ryan to its roll of supporting members, in recognition of their foundation grant to pilot a leadership institute.

Several advisory groups meet each semester during the academic year:

- The Community Council (a sub-committee of the DSU President’s Council) added 3 new members and adopted as its task increasing the public profile of the Center and its activities.

- The Alumni Task Force (a sub-committee of the DSU Alumni Council) added 4 new members and adopted as its task increasing alumni participation in a new “Heritage Week” celebration at the university.
The Review Committee (select faculty and staff at DSU) supervised admission of 15 new students to the Faith & Reason Honors Program.

New this year is the formation of a Student Advisory Committee. These 6 students, representing various groups on campus, provide scheduling and marketing advice for generating student interest in the Center’s activities.

MISSION & BACKGROUND

Seeking to fulfill Pope John Paul II’s call to dialogue with culture, the Salesian Center disseminates the legacy of Salesian spirituality to the modern world.

- The director and the senior scholar undertook 23 speaking engagements for a variety of groups in 9 different states.

- The director and the senior scholar also participated in the bi-annual Salesian Scholars’ Seminar (in Stella Niagara, NY). Their research will soon be published in a commemorative volume.

- Two special events this year focused on the Salesian tradition:
  
  - To support the university’s dedication of a new Marian statue, the Center offered an historical overview of the role that “Our Lady of Deliverance” played in the life and legacy of St. Francis de Sales.
  
  - To celebrate the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales’ letter On the Preacher and Preaching, the Center sponsored a special symposium in which over 50 priests and deacons from 6 dioceses participated in a series of workshops on preaching.

- For the conclusion of the university’s novena in honor of Pope John Paul II, the director offered a special presentation on the mutuality of the life and thought of both the pope and our patron saint.

- To inaugurate the university’s 40th anniversary celebrations, Fr. Pocetto authored the definitive institutional history, entitled Drawing Out the Goodness: From Allentown College to DeSales University (1964-2001).
ACTIVITIES in RESEARCH

The Center’s very first research project – “Surgeons & the Spirit: A Study on the Relationship of Religiosity to Clinical Practice” – was published in the international Journal of Religion and Health (volume 44, Spring 2005, pages 67-80. From this pilot study, the Center plans to pursue similar research on a national level.

The Alacoque House, a special interest student residence dedicated to promoting a contemplative atmosphere on campus, hosted monthly Sacred Heart dinners for the campus community. The residents also spent three weekends on retreat in monasteries of the Visitation of Holy Mary, in Brooklyn (NY) and Tyringham (MA). Due to changing needs for facilities on campus, the Alacoque House and its “adopt a monastery” program will be discontinued next year.

The Faith & Reason Honors program welcomed 15 new members from the class of 2008. Two new seminars -- on Beauty (LS 4004) and on Truth (LS 4005) – were initiated. Students continue to participate in cultural events, which this year included Celtic Fest and the Salvador Dali art exhibit.

ACTIVITIES in DIALOGUE

In terms of the dialogue between faith and culture, the Salesian Center sponsored several presentation activities.

- The director of the Center led orientation workshops for new trustees and new full-time faculty.

- The Salesian Center supported and published two annual lectures for the university and the general public:
  - The St. Leonie Aviat Lecture was delivered by Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, S.J., executive director of the Nativity School Network, with a focus on “Breaking the Cycle of Poverty through Education” (60 in attendance). Beginning next year, thanks to a previously established endowment, this series will be rededicated as the Anthony Ruggiero Lecture on Catholic Education.
The Kraft Lecture on Higher Education was delivered by the Most Reverend Joseph Kurtz, D.D., bishop of Knoxville (TN) on the subject of “Preaching in the 21st Century” (103 in attendance). Beginning next year, this lecture series will culminate the celebration of “Heritage Week.”

Dialogue about faith and culture continued through the discussion groups sponsored by the Center:

- The Breakfast Club morphed into the Lunch Bunch and met over the course of the Fall and Spring semesters. In all, 9 faculty and staff discussed 6 books and wrote essays about their experience (published on the Center’s web site).

- The Center Valley Forum took place in three sessions over the course of the year:
  - “A Plan for America: Perspectives on the Election” drew 43 participants
  - “America’s Shouting Match” drew 55 participants
  - “Unoriginal Sins: A Cheating Culture in America” drew 60 participants.

- The IMPACT series held five breakfast meetings, featuring
  - Matt Manion – CEO of the Catholic Leadership Institute (33 participants)
  - Zachary Lysek – Coroner of Northampton County (37 participants)
  - Fr. Peter Leonard, OSFS – President of the Baranzano Society on bioethics (33 participants)
  - Joe Petro – former Special Agent in the Secret Service (49 participants)
  - Douglas Hochstetler – President of the Lehigh Valley Coalition on Sport Ethics (26 participants)
The Salesian Center introduced two new series, aimed particularly at students:

- The Life Lessons series brings DSU alumni back to campus to lead a frank and honest dialogue on current issues. The inaugural events this year were:
  - “Let’s talk about ... SEX” with Anne Lewis, a professional actress (53 participants)
  - “Let’s talk about ... Sexual Harassment” with Thomas Nicoletti, police detectives (26 participants)

- The Fireside Films series shows and discusses a film pertinent to the season of Lent, this year featuring Mel Gibson’s The Passion of the Christ.

**ACTIVITIES in PARTNERSHIP**

The Salesian Center provides educational enrichment via the Internet, making courses available totally online.

- The Salesian Studies Online program offered 6 courses to 26 students in 11 states and 1 foreign country! A course on the “Eucharist” was offered for the first time.

- A new venture, in collaboration with the diocese of Allentown, was to provide courses in the Catechist Formation Program. A pilot course on the Eucharist was developed and offered to 66 religious educators in all counties in the diocese.

*The Baranzano Society*, supported by a grant from the Metanexus Institute on Science and Religion, continues to support public dialogue about bioethical issues:

- The Society continued its series of “talking circles” forums, which received feature coverage in two local newspapers. The topics for discussion this year were:
  - “Bio-Politics and the Challenges to Public Healthcare” (40 participants)
  - “The Nursing Shortage as a Healthcare Crisis in America” (36 participants)
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- “The Promise & Peril of Stem Cell Research”  (133 participants)
- “The Quest for Performance Enhancement”  (52 participants)

Panelists discuss Performance Enhancement 
Audience for discussion of Stem Cell Research

- The Society inaugurated a new “Winter Ethics Colloquium” for graduate medical education. Supported with a grant from the Rider Pool Foundation, this half-day of workshops brought together, for the first time ever, some 50 residents in each of the Lehigh Valley’s three major systems.

- The Society also inaugurated a new television series on bioethics. The first show, aired live on campus and reproduced on DVD, focused on the national controversy surrounding the death of Terri Schiavo. Some 25 Physician Assistant students in the audience joined the guest panelists in a discussion on the medical, legal, and ethical issues.

- The Officers of the Society (Fr. Peter Leonard and Fr. Thomas Dailey) have been invited to present a paper at an interdisciplinary conference on “Ultimate Meaning and Reality” in Toronto, Canada.

New this year is the establishment of a Leadership Institute focusing on the principles of Salesian spirituality. The piloting of this program was made possible thanks to a $40,000 grant from the Ryan Family Foundation.

- The institute will consist of two weekend retreats and ten monthly meetings, along with a series of materials for personal reflection and practice.
In the summer of 2005, a group of six Oblates will team with the staff of the Catholic Leadership Institute (in Philadelphia) to transform their leadership materials in such a way as to include the tenets of Salesian spirituality.

The Center has selected 14 students who will begin the year-long work of this institute in August 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Materials related to the integration of faith and culture and the legacy of Salesian spirituality are made available in print and/or on the Center’s web site.

Commentaries from the Salesian Center address contemporary concerns:

- The Center published 5 op-ed essays, which appeared in The Morning Call (Lehigh Valley, PA) and Newsday (New York) newspapers.

- The director penned 5 commentaries that were published in On the Boards, the playbill for the ACT ONE theatre and dance programs.

Monographs have been written, translated, and/or edited by members of the Center:

- St. Francis de Sales’ Mystical Exposition on the Canticle of Canticles (revised edition), translated by Fr. Dailey

- St. Francis de Sales’ letter On the Preacher and Preaching (reprint)

- The Sermons of St. Francis de Sales on the Eucharist, 1597 – translated by Fr. Pocetto, edited by Fr. Dailey, with a commentary by last year’s visiting scholar in the Salesian Center, Fr. James Cryan, OSFS

- St. Francis de Sales’ “Treatise on Holy Communion” – translated by Fr. Pocetto

- “St. Francis de Sales: Patron of Journalists” (translation of a German study)
Publicity for the Center and its work appeared in print publications and on their respective web site:

- Two (2) event notices appeared, in *The A.D. Times* (diocese of Allentown, PA) and *The Catholic Week* (diocese of Mobile, AL).

- Thirteen (13) news stories in which the director of the Center provided commentary appeared, in *The Morning Call* (Allentown, PA), *The Express-Times* (Easton, PA), and *The A.D. Times* (diocese of Allentown, PA).

- Four (4) news stories appeared, in *The Express-Times* (Easton, PA) and *The A.D. Times* (diocese of Allentown, PA).

- The work of the Baranzano Society will be featured in a forthcoming edition of *Science & Theology News*.

The Center’s library now houses a video archive of television broadcasts featuring the members of the Salesian Center and/or its partnership programs. To-date this archive includes videotape and DVD reproductions of

- the Baranzano Society “talking circles” forums and its television shows

- two television series on Pope John Paul II:
  - “Public Voices” -- WYBE (Philadelphia)
  - “Crossing the Threshold” -- WFMZ (Lehigh Valley)

DEVELOPMENT

Contributions to the Salesian Center increased this year in several areas, not least of which is the number of donors (88) and the total monies received (in excess of $100,000)

- DeSales University’s annual fund drive received over $47,000 (as of 6/5/05) in contributions designated for the Salesian Center’s general endowment.

- This total includes receipts ($2,350) from a special Easter appeal.

- According to donors’ wishes, gifts were distributed to the following funds:
  - general endowment (for operations) = $38,180
  - named endowments (for specific programs) = $8,625
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- Donors will be recognized in the university’s annual report, which will be published in the Fall.

The Salesian Center continued to receive grants in the form of continuing installments and new monies:

- for the Faith & Reason Honors program ($15,000 installment)
- for the Baranzano Society on bioethics ($10,000 installment)
- for the Baranzano Society’s winter ethics colloquium ($1,000 new)
- for the Leadership Institute ($40,000 new)

Through the generosity of the Performing & Fine Arts department, each issue of On the Boards, the playbill for the Act One performing arts series (drama and dance), contains a full-page advertisement that promotes the work of the Salesian Center.

In sum, the financial situation of the Salesian Center remains stable. The status of the endowments is noted below:

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<td>Leadership Institute</td>
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| Total | 2,309,508 | 155,270 | 2,469,107 |

Finally, the director collaborated with the strategic planning consultants on the design of a new facility for the Salesian Center. Architectural renderings have been drafted and a fund-raising campaign will be designed in the Fall 2005 semester.
Looking Ahead to 2005-2006

The Salesian Center continues to look for new and improved ways to foster the integration of faith and culture through research, dialogue, and partnerships. While the following list suggests areas for growth, the success of these objectives will depend greatly on the extent to which present staffing and funding levels are improved.

In terms of PERSONNEL ...

objective #1 – grow endowment funding to provide for a full-time Director of the Salesian Center

objective #2 – create and implement administrative tasks that provide more extensive public relations for the Salesian Center

In terms of MISSION ...

objective #3 – inaugurate and direct the varied events associated with the new “Heritage Week” celebration

In terms of ACTIVITIES ...

objective #4 – expand the Faith & Reason honors program to its full complement by admitting new students from the class of 2009, introducing the final seminar in the Senior year (LS 4006), inaugurating the honors “independent study” series, hosting the year-end honors colloquium, and awarding the inaugural honors thesis prize.

objective #5 – investigate the possibility of establishing an annual public survey on ethical issues

objective #6 – seek grant funding to begin a literary television series featuring contemporary authors and their best-selling books

objective #7 – develop materials specific to a Salesian Leadership Institute, initiate the pilot program of the institute, and evaluate its progress

objective #8 – devise and implement a plan of merger with the Forum for Ethics in the Workplace and its subsidiary, the Lehigh Valley Coalition on Sport Ethics
In terms of PUBLICATIONS ...

objective #9 – work with marketing consultants to create a semi-annual newsletter to promote the work of the Center and enlist the aid of supporters

objective #10 – work with technical and editorial consultants to create an electronic journal that will disseminate studies related to the work of the Center

In terms of DEVELOPMENT ...

objective #11 – seek a source of funding that will allow for the continuation of the Baranzano Society on bioethics beyond the term of its grant (ending 2006)

objective #12 – develop a strategic plan to raise funds ($5 million) for the construction of the new facility that will house the Salesian Center

PHOTO CREDITS:

John Paul II – MSNBC.com
St. Francis de Sales – DeSales University
Salesian Center (snow) – Salesian Center
Our Lady of Deliverance – DeSales University
Journal of Religion & Health – Springerlink.com
Celtic Fest – Brian Zumbrun
Fr. Jack Podsiadlo, SJ – Nativity Network
Bishop Joseph Kurtz – Diocese of Knoxville
Center Valley Forum – Salesian Center

IMPACT book – Barnes & Noble.com
Life Lessons – Salesian Center
Year of Eucharist - yearoftheeucharist.com
Enhancement – Jim Middlekauf, Express-Times
Stem Cell– John Simitz, The A.D. Times
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