

Dear Salesian Family,

I am taking the time to write this short letter to you, and I would like to focus on the key words of my salutation, "Salesian Family." Our Salesian family in our area consists of: Bishop Mora Salesian High School, St. Mary's Parish and its elementary school, the Salesian clubs at Wabash (not active) and 4th Street (active), St. Bridget's Chinese Center and our newest member, Santa Isabel Church and its elementary school. All these make up the Salesian Family and we must begin to see each other as one family.

The second point of this letter is that the focus of ministries in each these locales is the same: the young people entrusted to our care! In each one of these areas your children are present. Our goal, as stressed by Don Bosco, is to develop our children to become honest citizens and good Christians.

My third point is to share with you the main recommendation given by our superior: to reduce our Mass schedule in order to take care of our health in serving the people, especially the young in our area. Therefore, I want to share with you the decisions we have made as a community:

1. Regarding daily Masses: on Monday there will be NO MASSES in either parish, in order for us to have one Mass a week as a religious family.

2. On Sunday: all the Masses will remain the same; however, the Santa Isabel English Mass at 9:30 am will be dropped and replaced by a Mass at 7:00 pm in English. This enables the English community to have Masses throughout the day on Sunday: St. Mary's at 8:30 am and 11:30am. Establishing the English Mass at 7:00 pm offers our brothers and sisters, along with their families, to come together as a community.

There may be other changes in the future but I ask you for your prayers in this process.

Lastly, this past weekend many of you experienced the family of the priesthood in covering most of the Sunday Mass schedule. Mr. Louis Velasquez, who is the Vicar for the Clergy of Los Angeles, helped in arranging the priests for St. Mary's Parish, which included Bishop David O'Connell as well. I am most grateful to Msgr. John Moretta and Fr. Chris Felix of Resurrection Parish in covering the Masses at Santa Isabel.

Yes, we are a family to serve you, our brothers and sisters, especially the young. Thanks for your prayers, understanding and support.

A son of Don Bosco.

Fr. Jim Nieblas,
Rector