

St. John Bosco

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situated in the middle of their neighborhood. The *refugio* was closed down and the usual round of harassment was begun against the work of Don Bosco. Once again his virtue of perseverance was put to the test; so emphatic was he that his undertaking continue that some people said he was insane and insisted he be confined to a mental asylum. Instead, Don Bosco's mother joined him in his mission and, sacrificing all her material goods to the founding of the first Salesian Home, became "Mama Margaret" to these children of the streets.

Quite contrary to the prevailing notions of the time, Don Bosco did not use punishment or rough treatment to inculcate good behavior and values into his charges. Rather, according to a dream he had had as a youth, he obeyed the voice that had said to him, "Not with blows, but with charity and gentleness must you draw these friends to the path of virtue." Many teachers today would recognize the wisdom of preventing bad behavior with love and good example rather than punishing undesirable conduct after the fact. Don Bosco certainly did, and his methods proved particularly successful. At his death in 1888, there were 250 Salesian houses in existence around the world that housed, educated, and supported over 130,000 children.

Don Bosco was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1934. His feast day is January 31. He is the patron of St. John Bosco Parish in Stamford, Vermont.

Source for this article was:

Saxton, Eugene. "St. Giovanni Melchior Bosco." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 2. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1907. 5 Jan. 2011
www.newadvent.org/cathen/O2689d.htm.

Westfield nun professes vows

Kim-Bao Teresa Pham first heard God's call to religious life when she was 10 or 11, living in Switzerland. There was a Cistercian monastery of nuns close to her home, and she went to Mass there almost every day.

A native of Saigon, Vietnam, she left that country with her family in 1976, spending some time in Thailand and Switzerland before coming to the United States around 1981.

Now 42, she is known as Sister Angelica Marie Kim-Bao Pham, OSB, and she will make her monastic profession of triennial vows during a special Mass Feb. 10 celebrated by Bishop Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Burlington, at the Monastery of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Westfield. Father F. Lawrence Brown, OSB, chaplain at the monastery, will concelebrate.

These will be her first vows, also called temporary vows. "It is our custom to make temporary vows for three years," she explained.

During the profession, the celebrant will ask God in His mercy to establish His servant in a life of goodness and "graciously pour into her all that is pleasing to you. Grant that she may always run to you with her whole heart, serve you with an obedient soul, humbly implore your mercy and ever rejoice in your blessings."

Sister Angelica Marie will vow stability, conversion of her life in poverty and chastity, and obedience according to the Rule of Saint Benedict.

The celebrant will give to the newly professed sister a long scapular which signifies her monastic profession.

The contemplative Benedictine nuns belong to the Congregation of

Solesmes. Their Westfield monastery was founded in 1981 by the Abbaye Sainte-Marie des Deux-Montagnes in Canada.

Asked how Scripture study fostered her vocation and nourished her in her desire to become a nun, Sister Angelica Marie replied, "I love to read the Bible. It is what I prefer to read... I read Scripture every day and meditate on it during my daily lectio divina and silent prayer time."

She studies Scripture in her formation classes. "Scripture could be seen

as at the base of the whole monastic life since we gather together eight times a day to pray the psalms and hear an extract from the Bible for the praise and glory of God," said Sister Angelica Marie, who has always gone to daily Mass when possible and spent time in prayer and adoration.

Recipient of a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the College of Charleston (South Carolina) and a bachelor of science and master's degrees in architecture from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, Sister Angelica Marie worked as an architect and did a lot of drafting before entering religious life. She now writes icons and has completed an icon of Our Lady of the Sign while at the monastery.

Sister Angelica Marie also works in the monastery's Altar Bread Department, as well as in the kitchen, along with her other household duties.

For more information about the monastery, visit www.ihmwestfield.com.

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Sister Angelica Marie