



The Oratory Criteria

The Focus of our mission



Four Criteria –Aspects of Every
Salesian Ministry: Home, School,
Parish Playground!



The Oratory Criteria

The Salesians believe that all formation environments for the young have four components:

- They are “Homes” that welcome
- “Parishes” that evangelize
- “Schools” where we can learn
- “Playgrounds” where friends can meet and have fun.



The Oratory Criteria

- This criteria is essential in the planning and carrying out of our entire pastoral ministry. When one or more ASPECTS OF A PASTORAL MINISTRY is missing, ---the Salesian youth ministry is lacking. A comprehensive Youth Ministry or a comprehensive religious formation calls for all four criteria to be present in our pastoral outreach toward youth.



A. The “Welcoming Home”





The “Welcoming Home”

- Time needs to be spent in relationships-in and out of the classroom.
- The young are not objects that are there for us to impart our program or some kind of religious knowledge upon. If that is the case, without relationships, whatever we teach them will soon be forgotten.
- An environment of personal care and concern will make our plan for education and evangelization a lot more credible.
- We need to make the young feel that they are at Home in our Ministries.



...The “Welcoming Home”

- A “home” is a place where people can “be themselves.”
- Don’t lose the Joy - In the strife for discipline and order (which characterizes many educational programs and youth religious activities) the joy is taken out of the experience.
- In any home different roles and responsibilities are carried out by various family members but everyone feels apart of the family and feels that they contribute to family life.
- Creating a religious formation environment that feels like a welcoming home demands good relationships with the young and with your fellow educators.



B. The “School that prepares for life”





The “School that prepares for life”

- Catechesis is not an imparting of religious doctrines and Dogmas- it is a gift of encouraging faith to help the young journey through life.
- Catechesis must have applications to the real life situations of young people- it must prepare them for life.
- Example: In a Religion Class, a school that prepares for life takes the time to integrate religious knowledge with real life.
 - Religious formation demands that we make Christian doctrines sensible and applicable.

C. “A Playground where friends come
to meet.”



“A Playground where friends come to meet.”



- Socialization is a goal for religious formation... because the young need the support of friends who are also walking along the journey of faith.
- Peer Ministry is an essential tool in religious formation.
 - When peers help peers to grow in their spirituality it is a win/win situation.
 - Peer leaders learn to take roles of service and leadership as evangelizers and educators.
 - Youth recipients of ministry from their peers get the truth of the story in a very credible way – from one of their own.

... “A Playground where friends come
to meet.”



- In Salesian youth ministry this is highly prized and practiced. Allowing leadership development is a key for self understanding in peer leaders who must ask themselves where they are in their faith lives and if they really believe what they are challenging their peers to understand and comprehend.
- Peer Ministry and Peer Catechesis is essential in Salesian Ministry.



D. A Parish that Evangelizes





“A Parish that Evangelizes”

- To preach and teach the “Good News” of Jesus Christ and the joy of being a disciple is the goal evangelizers in the church.
- However, Catechist realize that this is a process.
 - It takes –the home, school and playground –not just the religion class



... “A Parish that Evangelizes”

- The Salesian philosophy of religious education is never to separate the evangelization from the fun of the playground, nor the family environment.
 - Holiness is in the ordinary. Simply doing your duties well- studying, playing and working are moments that give praise and glory to God.
 - There are moments of formal religious expression- the sacraments, catechism class, devotions etc. but those special religious moments are characterized as a continuum of God’s presence in our daily lives.
 - Devotions and prayer times become so very natural in such settings that there is no noticeable duality between the various components of a daily schedule.



... “A Parish that Evangelizes”

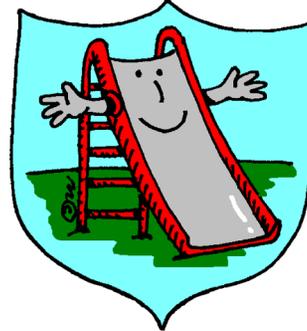
- This goal of preaching and teaching the Good News of Our Lord must be done wisely. Each and every child in a religious education program should not be taken for granted. They are all different – individual and special. There is not a “one size fits all” approach. We need to be wise evangelizers in the twenty-first century.



Salesian Pastoral Plan



PLAYGROUND



PATROL

