The Xavier Sports Day was a fantastic success! Held in beautiful weather, it was extremely well attended by students and the overall participation rate was outstanding. Congratulations to all House Leaders for their organisation and for encouraging the active involvement of so many students. The appreciation of the College community is extended to the Sports Administrator, Mr. Daniel Searle and Mr. Flaherty for their overall organisation of the day and to House Directors and Staff in general for their involvement. The oval was well prepared as always. Thanks to the commitment of the Grounds Staff.

CONGRATULATIONS MacKILLOP HOUSE Athletics Champions 2005

MacKilop House Leaders, Kasey McVicar and Brent Bloffwitch accept the Athletics Championship Trophy

“a school of the future in the present”
From the Principal

Last weekend I attended the Australian Salesian Educational Leaders Conference in Melbourne with the other members of the College Executive. Because of the significance of the conference in terms of our identity as a Catholic school I decided to include the following report on the conference, published electronically on the Salesian Asia-Pacific web site, in place of my normal contribution to the Xavier News.

Conference Calls on Salesian Educators to be Prophets of Life

MELBOURNE: 14th March 2005 -- Fifty delegates from four States attending the 2005 Australian Salesian Educational Leaders Conference were called upon to be prophets of life to their students and their educational communities. The weekend conference, which took place in Melbourne (Australia) from 11 – 13 March, was addressed by Professor Richard Teese of the University of Melbourne and Sr Edna Mary MacDonald, Provincial of the Salesian Sisters. The conference was characterised by quality professional dialogue and high levels of collegial interaction in a typically Salesian context of prayerful and festive celebration. Professor Teese explored the implications of his research which unequivocally demonstrates that low levels of achievement at school is a key indicator that a young person is more likely to be socially and economically disadvantaged once leaving school. “An implication of this is that poor school achievement sours a young person’s relationship with themselves, others and society,” he said, “and is a predictor that the young person is less likely to engage in the social, economic and political life of society.”

“Young people are not all the same,” Professor Teese said, “and we need to recognise the unique needs of each person. All young people are valuable and we need to be creative in finding ways to demonstrate that all young people are valuable, especially by having a place for every student in a programme with valuable benefits.” He went on to develop a proposal that advocated the combining of academic integration and social integration as a means of striving towards personal integration. He concluded his presentation by urging educational leaders not to forget the needs of the poor and to re-evaluate their practical commitment to young people who are disadvantaged by the schooling system. Sr Edna Mary MacDonald gave a powerful presentation which sought to address the question of how to re-interpret and re-enliven the Salesian Charism so as to be able to engage young people, whom she described as “living in the kingdom of stuff”, to find a deeper and richer sense of purpose, meaning and spiritual fulfilment in life.

Sr Edna Mary used the story of Bartholomew Garelli to identify and illustrate ways in which Don Bosco was dissatisfied with some of the common ideas about life, meaning and living, that were current in his own time. She demonstrated how he tried to re-write and give life to the gospel for the poor and vulnerable of his day, and showed how the joy, love and acceptance of Don Bosco had a transforming effect upon young people.

Sr Edna Mary emphasised the importance of continually re-examining the Salesian charisma and the need for the continuing formation of Salesian educational leaders. Integral to this project is empowering leaders to develop a “critical consciousness”. She proposed that Don Bosco’s Preventive System provides both a spirituality and a methodology for assisting young people to question their personal values and the values of their society.

Sr Edna Mary continued to develop an understanding of Salesian Spirituality, with its emphasis on finding God in the context of daily living, as being uniquely placed to engage young people, who are thirsting for meaning, in exploring and living life with greater depth and wholeness.

Fr Greg Chambers, Principal of Salesian College, Sunbury, preached the homily at the concluding Eucharist. He linked the readings of the 5 Sundays of Lent to the Salesian spirituality. Speaking of Salesian educators as life-givers and Salesian education as life-giving, he encouraged delegates to engage as prophets of life to enable young people to enter into and celebrate the “Kingdom of Life” as proclaimed by Jesus and as expressed by the spirit of Don Bosco.

As a result of the Conference participants were encouraged in their identity as Salesian educators, affirmed in the work they are doing with and for young people, challenged to evaluate and give new life to the manner in which the Salesian charisma is given concrete expression in their school contexts, and inspired to renew their commitment to Don Bosco and young people.

Mr Lynn Martin
Principal
PROJECT COMPASSION

“The Challenge is Poverty, the Time is Now!”

Each year during the season of Lent, the Catholic Aid Organisation, Caritas Australia, conducts its major fundraising appeal, Project Compassion. During the next two weeks, we are challenging each tutor group of raise $100, which is about $4 per student, in the hope that the College can meet the target of $3200 to support the work of Caritas.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO CLASS APPEALS

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LETS SEND THIS YEAR’S PROJECT COMPASSION CAMPAIGN OUT WITH A BANG

On Tuesday 29th March we are having an EXTENDED LUNCH

So you can:

- BUY A SAUSAGE IN BREAD $1.00!
- ENJOY THE MUSIC OF XAVIER’S LATEST TALENTS!
- ENJOY THE COMPANY OF YOUR SCHOOL MATES IN A RELAXED, FUN ENVIRONMENT!

ALL PROCEEDS TO PROJECT COMPASSION

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Sixth Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50.4-7; Philippians 2.6-11; Luke 22.14-23.56

“I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me I will rise again in the people of El Salvador… If God accepts sacrifice of my life, then may my blood be the seed of liberty, and a sign that hope will soon become a reality.”

These words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, serve well to introduce our reflection today. Like Romero’s wounds, the wounds that Jesus suffers in his passion continue to fascinate us and draw us into the great mystery that is his life’s gift for us. Such a gift requires a complete emptying of self. The Philippians hymn celebrates this gift, and reminds us that Jesus “emptied himself, to assume the condition of a slave.” Then he went even further, and emptied himself to the point of complete surrender. Perhaps our generous contribution to this year’s Project Compassion could be a step towards our own sacrifice, and our own promise, to be people of the resurrection, for whom the things of death can never have the last word.

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Why We Study Indonesian

Indonesian is the only language taught at Xavier College. We often get asked “Why study Indonesian?” Indonesian is a useful and simple language to learn. Indonesia is also Australia’s closest neighbour. Our awareness of our neighbours has increased as a result of the Bali Bombings in 2002 and the recent Tsunami in Aceh. To increase the Xavier community’s awareness and understanding of the Indonesian language and culture, students and the teachers of Indonesian will write regular articles in the newsletter. This week we have comments from Brent Bloffwitch and Hannah Murdoch.

Hello, we are just two of the Year 12 students studying Indonesian as a second language this year. We both chose to study Bahasa Indonesia because we were both interested in the culture, way of life and wanted to communicate with somebody in a foreign country. The bonus entry points for University is also helpful! We believe that Indonesian is a valid subject at Xavier College. If you are interested in studying Indonesian, we encourage you to give it a shot. We have found that the workload is far from intense and there is an overall enjoyment with studying a Language Other Than English (LOTE).

Salam hangat dari kelas dua belas.
(Warm regards from the Year 12 class)
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
SAIL TRAINING VOYAGES

South Australia’s Sail Training Vessel, the One and All, has offered the opportunity for students from Xavier College to participate in their Youth Development Sail Training Programme. Voyages are of 7 days duration and will take place later this year.

Although these voyages are fun, exciting and very satisfying for the trainees, it is an intensive work and social experience, in which they are presented the challenge of sailing the ship 24 hours a day in almost any weather, until they are capable of taking over and sailing her for themselves. The skills required are simple and varied, providing inclusion for all team members. All trainees start from a zero knowledge base and the step by step acquisition of knowledge as part of a team whose goal is to take over the ship, is a challenge which, for most trainees proves to be a life changing experience.

We particularly recommend these voyages for Year 10 students as the group that gains most benefit, but we also encourage Year 11 students to apply. The voyage cost is $840. Information can be obtained from the school which summaries the voyage, and also outlines the possibility of obtaining financial assistance.

Catherine Rogers BBSc recently completed a thesis evaluating Youth Development Sail Training aboard the One and All, for her Honours Degree in Behavioural Science at Flinders University. This is an extract from her summary:

It was found that the programme provided the framework for personal development through participant interaction with the sailing environ-

ment. Participants were responsible not only for themselves, but for the care and safety of others; thus the intensity of the interdependent community led to a strong social experience.

Key elements in the success of the programme included the restricted physical environment and hence, the inability to walk away, the development of the learning environment by the crew and specifically, the recruitment of crew “through the volunteer association, thereby selecting for enthusiastic, committed people with the personality types most suited to facilitation and guidance.”

If any student in Year 10 or Year 11 is interested in receiving further information regarding the One and All sailing programme, please see me.

Ms Michelle Rawady
Director of Students

XAVIER COLLEGE OPEN BOYS CRICKET v
PARAFIELD GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL

The Xavier College Open Boys cricket team successfully snatched defeat from the jaws of victory by going down to a very talented Parafield Gardens High School team which included the Pascoe brothers and Steve Marks, all members of the junior Redbacks team.

In the field first, Xavier recovered from a poor start (Parafield Gardens were 0 for 27 after only 4 overs) to have the visitors 9 for 119 and seemingly in an excellent position. A decision to revert to the new ball attack proved to be less that fruitful as Parafield Gardens took 22 runs from the next over. The momentum of the game changed completely and the 10th wicket partnership of 46, aided with some very ordinary bowling saw Parafield Gardens dismissed for 165.

Out of Parafield Gardens 165, 93 came from the bat of Trent Pascoe, who seemed very fortunate not to be given out, caught behind, when he was only on 4! The Xavier wickets were evenly shared with Sam Walton, Ben Work and Sean Smith all getting 2 apiece.

Xavier started the run chase with a sound contribution from the openers, Jamie Gniel and Kieran Sankey, only to see the middle order collapse to be 7 for 78. Some degree of respectability was restored to the batting performance by a fine innings of 40 from Ben Work together with small cameos from Kieran McNally, Sean Smith and Sam Walton lifting the total to 125 at the fall of the 10th wicket.

So close but so far! It could have easily been a very different story, but for a very bad 45 minutes of cricket towards the end of the Parafield Gardens innings.

Mr Rick Drewer
Coach

“a school of the future in the present”