

300,000 March for Life in U.S. Capital

by Fr. Steve Ryan, SDB

WASHINGTON, D.C., JAN. 22, 2010 -Some 300,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22 to mark the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. More than half of that crowd was under the age of 25. Youths from all over the country converged on Washing-ton by buses, vans and even airplanes to stand up for the Gospel of Life.

Salesian youths were well represent-ed from our SDB and FMA schools and parishes. The Academy of Our Lady and Archbishop Shaw in New Orleans had a great group that traveled with the arch-diocese. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Collins from the schools, who organized the young from Marrero, La. From St. Petersburg Catholic in Florida, Steve McEntegart had a group that came to the Salesian vigil at Nativity Parish and also marched with the Salesians. Don Bosco Prep, led by Fr. Rich Rosin and Dr. Ed Caterina, was there early and enthusias-tically for the entire program. Salesian High, led by Fr. Tom Provenzano, Br. Mike Eguino and candidate John Langan, had a group of marchers. ►

Don Bosco Cristo Rey, guided by Br. Tom Sweeny and Fr. John Serio, did a great job on a skit at the vigil and marched proudly in their hometown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. George Hanna, Fr. Paul Grauls and Fr. Dominic DeBlase for their kindness and hospitality for the youth vigil. Nativity was jammed with 450 high school-aged youths; but the program ran like clockwork. Novices Philip Ehling and Juan Pablo Rubio organized the sacristy and the Mass and adoration. Joe Mele organized the program. Chris Barron was the D.J. and Megan Fraino was the overall coordinator. Nick Magrogan took care of the rest of the technology. The pre-novices kept the assistance going by participating in dance, sports and icebreakers.

This year's march was one of the most important Marches for Life in history. Regarding abortion legislation – there is much at stake at this moment. It was great to see the Salesian youths come out again in numbers.

Salesian Youth Ministry www.salesianym.com

Salesian Vocations www.salesianvocation.com