

---

## July 28, 2010 - United States – Camp Savio in Bellflower



**(ANS – Bellflower)** – Camp Savio at St. Dominic Savio Parish in Bellflower, Calif., has completed its third week. With over 300 campers and counselors, the community of Bellflower and its neighbors near Los Angeles found a second home for their young people. Every summer the camp provides a safe place for children aged 5-13 to have fun. It also provides teens and young adults an opportunity to make a difference.

Fr. Tho Bui, SDB, and Bro. Chuyen Nguyen, SDB, who are here for the summer have been the camp's spiritual guides. Daily Masses are celebrated in the youth center and are open to all, but counselors and especially staff leaders are highly encouraged to come.

The large number of youngsters are very enthusiastic. Juan Carlos, one of the leaders, asked a question at the counselor morning meeting: "How has camp changed you for the better?" Their incredible and amazing responses varied from the part where they are more involved in activities in their home life to treating their younger siblings in a more compassionate way. In the same way they begin to fill the shoes of their parents and begin to appreciate them.

They find that it is a lot better to roll into the mud or be completely doused with water than staying at home doing nothing or making bad choices. They found that the community of St. Dominic Savio is their other home. It's another place for them to be free to run, jump, play, make noise, and sing loud without criticism but instead with admiration and acceptance. They feel that they belong in this family.

On Monday, July 26, Fr. Timothy Ploch, provincial of the Western U.S. Province, visited and said Mass. They were all pleased and felt very fortunate to have him with them at Camp Savio.

Camp Savio not only makes an impact on the youth in this Bellflower community; it also makes a huge difference to the outsiders present at the places where these campers and counselors go on field trips.