

March 2, 2010 - Ecuador – The Rector Major preaches a retreat to the provincials

(ANS - Cumbayá) – On March 1 at the Maria Auxiliadora Spirituality House in Cumbayá, the retreat being preached by the Rector Major to the provincials of the InterAmerica and America Southern Cone regions began.

There are 22 provincials there, as well as Fr. Esteban Ortiz, councilor for the InterAmerica Region; missing are Fr. Natale Vitali, councilor for the America Southern Cone Region, who is still trying to reach Cumbayá, and Fr. Leonardo Santibañez, provincial of the Salesians in Chile, who has remained there to look after the difficult situation arising from the February 27 earthquake.

On the first day the Rector Major gave two talks: the first on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Salesian Congregation, and a second in the afternoon on Fr. Michael Rua, "Successor of Don Bosco: son, disciple, apostle."

On his arrival in Quito Fr. Chavez was met by Salesians, Salesian Sisters, including those in initial formation, representatives of the other groups of the Salesian Family, and young people of the Salesian Youth Movement in Ecuador.

The timetable for the retreat, which will end on Sunday, March 7, follows the traditional Salesian pattern: conferences, personal reflection, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the "Good Night."

There will also be meetings and special events. On March 3 the Rector Major will meet the Salesian Family, religious, and lay people in Ecuador. Those on retreat will be able to visit the Salesian Regional Center for Ongoing Formation, and on March 6 Fr. Chavez will meet the young people.