

Salesian Friends Group ***with Sr. Mary Berchmans and Sr. Loretta***

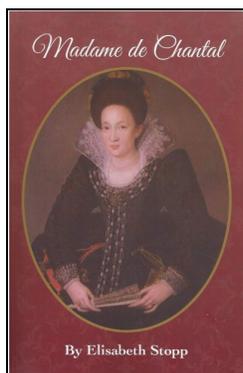
Sisters, alumnae, current and former parents, and faculty come together once a month for spiritual nourishment and learning about Visitation's Salesian charism. Sr. Mary Berchmans and Sr. Loretta's "Salesian Friends Group" explores the timeless and inspired teachings of our founders and the spirit that infuses all that we do at Visitation.

"Salesian Spirituality is a distinct way of looking at the world and a distinct way of interacting not only with God, but with the world," says Kitty Wach '82, an alumna and former Visitation parent who attends regularly.

Sr. Berchmans recalls the group starting because "sharing our Salesian Spirituality was a gift we had to share with our parents and alums just as we have been sharing it with our students and faculty and staff." As participants discuss what St. Francis and St. Jane taught, they also relate it to their daily lives, and how they meet both triumphs and struggles with equanimity and grace.

"Visitation is a lifelong community of people who are trying to live thoughtful lives of integrity in the modern world and are looking to Salesian Spirituality as a meaningful guide as they do it," says Kitty. "It's a blessing to be learning about Salesian Spirituality and how to practice it. And to be able to discuss it in this Visitation community makes it even more valuable."

Each year the group focuses on a different book and for 2018-2019 the group will be reading *Madame de Chantal*. This Salesian literature classic is an engaging, intimate portrait of our strong, loving patroness whose life is a model for the young, the married, the widowed, and the professed religious.



Madame de Chantal by Elisabeth Stopp

This book is an attempt to portray the personal and spiritual development of a saint and to set the portrait against its background in time and place... What chiefly attracted me was the story of her life and the actual process by which a not very unusual young married woman of the world gradually turned into a saint."

- Elisabeth Stopp

This most sought-after biography by this eminent scholar includes a foreword by Sr. Marie Patricia Burns, VHM, and the essay: "Portrait of a Saint—Twenty Five Years On" written by Dr. Stopp in 1986. Available at embracedbygod.org or through the [St. Jane de Chantal Salesian Center](http://St.Jane.de.Chantal.Salesian.Center).

2018-19 Meeting Dates

September 11

December 11

March 12

October 9

January 8

April 9

November 13

February 12

May 14

8:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room ~ Second Tuesday of the Month. Join us for one or all!
We especially extend a warm welcome to parents new to the Visitation community!

Questions? Contact Olivia Wills Kane '85, Salesian Center Director: olivia.kane@visi.org/202-337-3350 x2732