

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Dear missionaries and friends of the Salesian missions!

Cordial Easter greetings during the month of Mary.

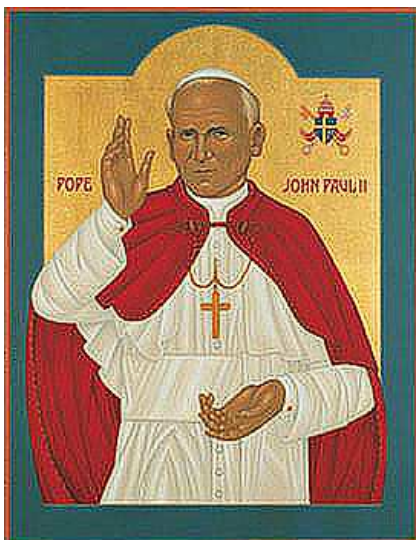
On the first day of the month we thank the Lord for the gift of the beatification of John Paul II, a great missionary Pope, very close to young people as well as to many non-Christian peoples.

Having been ordained by him 25 years ago, and immediately sent to South Korea, I thank the Lord for his witness of missionary life and also for his encyclical on the missions, the 'Redemptoris Missio'.

The feast of Mary Help of Christians is also a day of prayer for the Church in China. Let us remember in our prayers the challenges of our brothers and sisters of the great China.

Václav Klement

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions



The Missionary Drive *ad gentes* Is Inherent to Consecrated Life

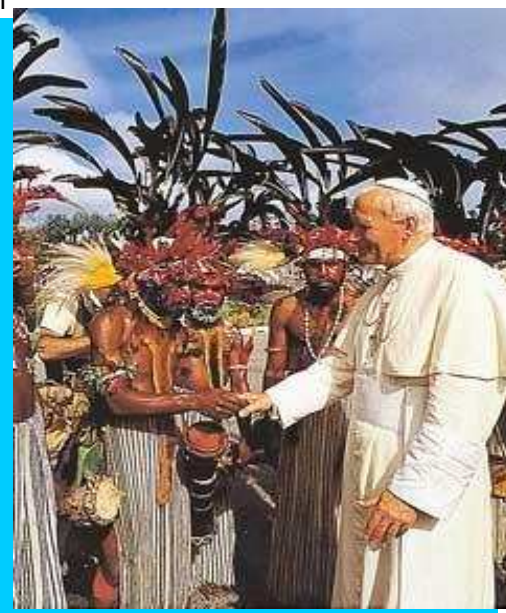
Blessed John Paul II was quoted to have said in one of his apostolic journeys: «I am the successor of Peter, and also of Paul, who, in order to preach the Gospel, had to travel around the world». Indeed, he was a great missionary first of all because he proclaimed Christ through the witness of his life. Since his life was deeply rooted in Christ he could not but go and meet people to share with them his faith in Jesus Christ the Lord. On the occasion of his beatification it is opportune to reread his words from «Vita Consacrata» no.76-78 where he stressed that the missionary drive *ad gentes* is an essential nature of religious life:

«**T**he specific contribution of consecrated persons, both men and women, to evangelisation is first of all the witness of a life given totally to God and to their brothers and sisters, in imitation of the Saviour who, out of love for humanity, made himself a servant. ... The consecrated life eloquently shows that the more one lives in Christ, the better one can serve him in others, going even to the furthest missionary outposts and facing the greatest dangers».

«**T**hose who love God, the Father of all, cannot fail to love their fellow human beings, whom they recognise as brothers and sisters. Precisely for this reason, they cannot remain indifferent-

to the fact that many men and women do not know the full manifestation of God's love in Christ. The result, in obedience to Christ's commandment, is the missionary drive *ad gentes*, which every committed Christian shares with the Church which is missionary by nature. This drive is felt above all by the members of Institutes, whether of the contemplative or of the active life. Consecrated persons, in fact, have the task of making present even among non-Christians Christ who is chaste, poor, obedient, prayerful and missionary».

«**T**he love of Christ impels us" (2 Cor 5:14): the members of every Institute should be able to repeat this truth with Saint Paul, because the task of the consecrated life is to work in every part of the world in order to consolidate and expand the Kingdom of Christ, bringing the proclamation of the Gospel even to the most far-off regions. In fact, the history of the missions testifies to the great contribution made by consecrated men and women to the evangelisation of peoples. ... Today too this duty continues to present a pressing call to Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: they are expected to make the greatest possible contribution to the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ!»



My missionary life is a journey of hope

I am convinced that becoming a missionary is a way in which dreams and realities meet. The fact that I am now a missionary is a dream rooted in the past and is explained by various reasons.

First, the desire to be a missionary, for me, is like a burning bush whose source is the family. Being the eldest son of my parents, my childhood was spent far from them. Their absence of over 6 years has made it easier for them to give me permission when I decided to join a missionary congregation. Another reason is my belonging to the parish of St Aloysius under the Palottines who consider missionary activity as one of their priorities. My desire was strengthened during my contact with the Salesians who are actively working in my hometown of Nord-Kivu/Goma. Similarly, I deepened and purified my motivations during the different stages of my formation. During my novitiate, I was convinced that my *Sequela Christi* will only be effective if I serve the youth away from my homeland. Every dream, enlightened by right motivations, becomes reality. In fact, my dream became flesh when I learnt that I was destined to serve the young among the peoples of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands!

Certainly, my current stay in the Solomon Islands is the result of a distant hope. Although during the *Course for New Missionaries* in Rome, the community where I will be sent was still unknown to me, I had already a very strong desire to be there. On the eve of my departure for this land after the English language course in Kenya, I repeated to myself Don Rua's words, «At Mirabello I shall be Don Bosco», saying that «in the Solomon Islands I shall be Don Bosco».

My first experience in this journey of hope to the Solomon Islands was that everything was new to me: the time, climate, food, language, environment. In fact, the heat choked me, I could not understand how I could possibly teach in a school with a British education system which is so different from the French education system I was used to. Being the only young confrere and practical trainee with two priests from other cultures and among students who seemed inactive, 'lifeless', I often immersed myself in solitude.

But I was really surprised when I discovered that my young people have the ability to create things. Everything related to art is perfectly applicable in this culture. It was the beginning of my joy and my being rooted in this new culture. As a young missionary, I have engraved in my mind that living in an international community is a support, especially when all have the common goal of following Christ in the footsteps of Don Bosco by serving young people. Moreover, the fact of sharing the gift of one's own life, one's missionary vocation and one's own time helps in learning to accept and appreciate the local culture. I admit openly that patience, inner joy in every sense outweighs the danger of sickness.

After my participation in the Orientation Course for Expatriate Missionaries of all the churches organized by The Melanesian Institute, I am confident that my attitude towards the mysteries of the culture of the Solomon Islands will change. I am truly grateful for the tools they offered me to help me purify my way of relating with the culture of the Solomon Islands where I live every day the mission as a path to hope.

Bro. Moise Paluku, Congolese, Missionary in Solomon Islands



MISSIONARIES SOUGHT FOR OCEANIA

Country - Province	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
Papua New Guinea - PNG SI Delegation	English, Papua New Guinea Pidgin	Pacific Island, after 30 years very few local vocations, educative-technical work, need of lay brothers
Solomon Islands - PNG SI Delegation	English, Solomon Islands Pidgin	Pacific Islands, after 25 years very few local vocations, educative-technical work, need of lay brothers



Salesian Missionary Intention

China: formation of lay people committed to the mission

That the Salesians and their lay mission partners who live in the East Asia-Oceania region, especially in the Chinese Province, be faithful to the truth of the Gospel and respect the dignity of every human person as a child of God destined for eternity.

Despite all the tough challenges of the materialistic atheist environment in China, we witness a real springtime of Christian communities. Christians are growing very fast in Asia especially these last 25 years. The training of lay people engaged in society and the building up of the ecclesial community is the main direction for the future of the Church in East Asia.



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero1@gmail.com