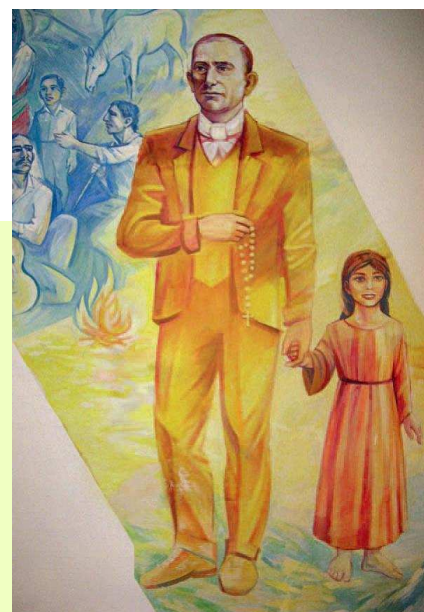




This year let us journey with the Gypsies!

Dear missionaries, Salesian confreres, Friends of the Salesian missions:
 At the beginning of 2010 I read several times the commentary and have seen as many times the video on the Strenna of the Rector Major "Let us bring the Gospel to the young!" Sometimes I wonder how many Salesians really feel the vital urgency to bring the Gospel to young people? Is the motto, the cry, the prayer of Don Bosco 'Da mihi animas, cetera tolle!' really at the centre of our lives?
 I want to offer some thoughts in this regard. Every year we have the opportunity to let ourselves be re-motivated by the witness of some of Salesian missionaries, which is presented to us by the *DOMISAL* (Salesian Mission Day).
 This year, 2010, we are celebrating the 23rd

Salesian Mission Day with the theme "The Salesians of Don Bosco walking with the Gypsies".
 In November 2009 I participated in Košice (Slovakia) - along with 120 SDB, FMA, lay collaborators (several Rom) of the 10 Provinces in Europe – in the European Meeting on missionary work for the Gypsies. It was an event held in the context of Project Europe in order to share, for the first time, real missionary experiences in the heart of Europe.
 I hope that the materials prepared for the Meeting in Košice as well as those prepared for the 2010 Salesian Mission Day reach all communities in the world Salesian.
 It is through the cooperation of many people that you have at your disposition a DVD (with 5 documentaries: The origin of the Gypsies, Jesus the Bulgarian, Mirka - Slovakia, Jonas - Hungary, Lunik IX - Slovakia), a teaching aid, a prayer card for your breviary, and an A3 poster. These are all available in 5 languages in www.sdb.org.
 For any information regarding the Salesian Mission Day (What does this mean and why? When? How? Who? By what means?) just write to the email address of



*Blessed Ceferino Jiménez Malla
 Gypsy-Kalò, catechist and martyr*

the Missions Department:
cagliero11@gmail.com.
 With best wishes that this "Salesian" month bear abundant fruits of evangelisation!

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions



MISSIONARIES SOUGHT FOR PROJECT EUROPE

Province - Country	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
AUS - Austria	German	Youth Centres, Oratories, Parishes, works for migrants, Salesian Youth Movement
BEN - Belgium - Holland	Flemmish, Dutch	Works in Amsterdam for migrants. International communities
CEP - Bulgaria	Búlgarian, Gypsie languages	Missionaries among the Gypsies, Catholic diaspora in an Orthodox country, request to internationalise the communities, Czech confreres
FRB - Belgium South	French	Parish, School, Youth Centre (Briselas)
GBR - Great Britain	English	Work for migrants, Parishes, Schools, Retreat Centres; european and african confreres
IRL - Ireland	English	Parish, Youth Centre



I, a Gypsie Salesian

My name is Salvador Polocino, I am 27 years old. I come from Vasto (Italy) and I have been a Salesian these last six years. I'm here because I am a Gypsy from the Abbruzzi region and until now, I am the first in Italy who has chosen to follow Jesus walking on the footsteps of Don Bosco. My father is a Gypsy and my mother *caggi*. In their life, by the the Lord's help, they have decided to build their life on love. My sister and I have a good share in this project of love .

I was baptized a few months after my birth, but then the Church and I have taken a certain distance, which lasted around 15 years. During my first year in high school, I met a Salesian. I did not know who the Salesians actually were, but they were surely different from other priests. Every single day he spoke about Jesus whilst reading from the Gospel. But he was still a priest and those days I was not interested in priests, churches and prayers. In my free time, for some years I used to roam in the streets with a 'lively' gang of friends (both Gypsies and *caggi*). I followed the myths of honour which are the product of violence, of brute force and of mistrustful shrewdness towards others. The main motto was: 'Cheat your neighbour, before he cheats you!'. After these years wandering in the streets with all the hardship it begets, I went to the oratory, (when I was already 15 years old).



At the oratory, I met a Salesian whom I knew from high school and a young Salesian brother with whom I became a friend. What struck me most is that they were really interested about my life. Regardless of any racial prejudice, they wished to know who I am and why it was so hard for me to live in a transparent way.

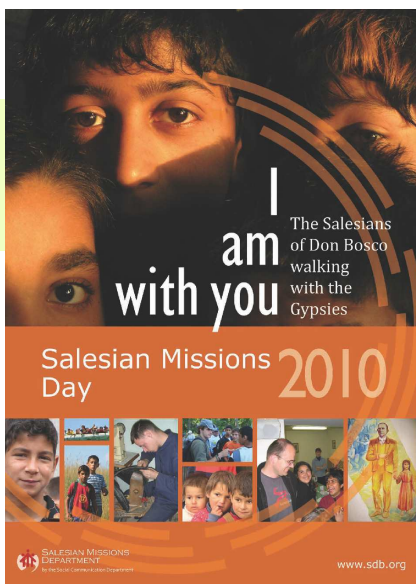
At the oratory, the prejudices against Gypsies were not very different from the general opinion in the streets. When an object disappeared (stealing!) I was the first to be questioned! In spite of this, the oratory offered a stable atmosphere where one could improve his life, walk along a journey of re-integration and sum up the best of the various cultures.

In a couple of years I caught up with the catechism, in a very unique way, since I received my first holy communion when I was 17 years old. For one year, once a week, I had meetings with the Rector, where I had the opportunity to share my experience about the Gypsy culture. He helped me to interpret this culture from the Gospel point of view. I learnt to discern what is pleasing in the eyes of the Lord and what I had to let go.

I received the sacrament of Confirmation when I was 18 years old. Because of my past experiences, the Rector who was also the parish priest, decided that it would be better if I prepare myself following the adult catechesis course which was based on the continual reading of John's Gospel. (This experience helped me to review my life in the light of the Gospel. Later, during my last year of studies in accounting and as I was pondering on my future, the Salesians invited me to join the vocations' group of the Province. When my parents came to know about the fact that I was really searching if God' will for me was to become a Salesian, they were very happy and serene. So, I started the pre-novitiate on 11th September 2001 and now, I am a perpetually professed Salesian. I am preparing myself seriously to become a priest.



Salesian Missionary Intention



The Salesian Family in Europe

That the Salesian Family in Europe during 2010, may contribute through the means of social communication in overcoming prejudices against Gypsies and other marginalised groups in society

The campaign of the Salesian Mission Day 2010 *The Salesians walking with the Gypsies* wants to contribute through the means of social communication (Salesian Bulletin, websites, news of our works, etc.) in overcoming the prejudices towards this most numerous ethnic minority present in the European continent for centuries. At the same time we also want to make known to the Church and society the truly missionary commitment of our confreres with and for the Gypsies in the various countries of Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary).



Send your suggestions and contributions to: cagliero11@gmail.com