

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



A Publication of the Missions Sector for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

We still have in our mind and heart the words of Pope Francis in his message for the World Mission Day 2017: "The world is absolutely in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ ... And, thanks be to God, there are also significant instances that testify to the transforming power of the Gospel. I think of the sacrifice of the Dinka student" (in South Sudan) "who, at the expense of his own life, protects a student of the Nuer tribe student, who had been destined to be killed" (No. 5).

We also think of our young, Salesian past-pupil, **Akash Bashir**, martyred in Pakistan. These are young witnesses who embraced the Gospel and contribute to changing the world.



Have you realized how many of these young people, powerful witnesses, are in our houses and our ministries? They are right before our eyes, living with us so many hours, days, months and even years. Let us not waste the extraordinary opportunities we have every day to promote and to raise the knowledge and love of the Gospel of Jesus among young people - especially among our young Salesian confreres. Only HE can truly transform this world!

J. Basañes

D. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions

Synod for the Pan-Amazonian region deeply involves the Salesian Family



Pope Francis has not finished taking us by surprise. On Sunday, October 15, before the recitation of the Angelus, he announced: "Welcoming the desire of some Episcopal Conferences of Latin America, as well as the voice of various Pastors and faithful from other parts of the world, I am convening a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazonian region. It will be held at Rome in October 2019. The main purpose of this gathering is to identify new paths for the evangelization of that portion of the People of God, especially the Indigenous peoples, who are often forgotten and without the prospect of a peaceful future. It is also because of the crisis in the Amazon rainforest, a vitally important lung of our planet."

This synod is dedicated to a reflection on the peoples and nations living in the Amazon rainforest. They are in nine countries: Brazil (67 per cent), Peru (13 per cent), Bolivia (11 per cent), Colombia (6 per cent), Ecuador (2 per cent), Venezuela (1 per cent), Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana (together make 0.15 per cent). In the Amazon region of South America, there are 2,797,478 aborigines belonging to 390 indigenous peoples and 137 peoples "not yet involved" completely. They speak 240 different languages that belong to 49 very important linguistic groups from a historical and cultural point of view.

This event is of particular interest to our Salesian family. Our presence in the Amazon has a history of 125 years. Our ministry is strongest in the Amazon valley of Brazil, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador. Here is an opportunity for a reflection based on our Salesian historical records of the region, our very rich cultural and social patrimony as evangelizers and as Salesians. We have worked among the Shuar, Achuar, Bororos, Xavantes, Yanomami and Tucanos, etc.. We need to analyze our social, cultural, ecological and pastoral challenges. We now have an opportunity to relaunch our presence, in communion with the whole church, in this part of the world, which is so important not only for the countries of the region, but for the whole planet. May Blessed Maria Troncanti, and the Servants of God Rodolfo Lunkenbein and Simon Bororo, accompany us these days that we may answer positively to the the Lord's plans for our Family among the Amazonian peoples.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE IS INDISPENSABLE FOR A MISSIONARY



I never really thought of becoming a missionary because I did not feel confident that I could overcome the difficulties I would face in a mission land. I left it to the others to go to the missions.

When I was a deacon, I went to Cambodia for a short-term volunteer work with some Korean students. We were at Phnom Penh's Don Bosco technical school. At that time I said to myself that I was there just to take care of my students. Over a few days of work I noticed that I hardly met any of the Salesians in the school. I realized that there were only a few confreres in Cambodia, where there were many young Khmers who needed them. I came across many poor young people in trouble. A thought flashed through my mind, that perhaps I was needed more in Cambodia than in Korea. I felt that the Korean province would not suffer from my absence because there were many confreres there. I do not think my missionary passion was just a sudden impulse. It is, indeed, natural to feel like helping people in trouble only when they are right in front of us. That was not my case. I felt the missionary call over three and a half years. It was only then that I took a decision and wrote to the Rector Major

offering myself to be a mission-

ary. My biggest challenge is the Khmer language. I realize that if I do not speak it correctly I will be just like any other staff of an NGO, not really a missionary. The local language is an essential factor in proclaiming the Gospel. Without it, our proclamation is very limited. With English I can run a school like a business and communicate with my confreres. To share my experience of the Faith with the Khmer youth, I need to use their language. My greatest joy is to stay with these young people, share their lives and meet my God in Khmer people.

When we think of missionary life we are likely to imagine too many difficulties in a strange land. We are tempted to avoid becoming a missionary. We cannot really anticipate the difficulties we will encounter. No one becomes a missionary because he is sure he will overcome all challenges. As a missionary, I have learned to place my trust totally in God. I also understand that, though we all wear the same jackets from the local culture, our missionary communities are international. I must accept also the culture of my fellow missionaries. It is important to have a mind that is receptive to various cultures. This also implies openness to the cultures of the other confreres in the community. When there is mutual openness, there is interculturality in the community and we become more credible witnesses of Jesus!



Fr. Mark Yang
Korean, missionary in Cambodia



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Postulator General for the Causes of Saints

Venerable Momma Margaret (1878-1856), had already noticed that Divine Providence had not destined John for a life in the fields. One morning, John talked to the family about a strange dream that had lasted all night. He seemed to be in the midst of a multitude of children. At first they had the appearance of every kind of wild animals. They were then transformed into flocks of sheep. A mysterious voice commanded him to take them to the pasture ... Margaret reflected for a moment, looking at her son, and then said, "Who knows, may be one day you will be a priest!" This thought remained engraved on the mind of the good mother, who could read the most secret inclinations in the heart of her son.

For Salesians in Asia



Salesian Missionary Intention

That they may be builders of communion in diversity

For the Salesian Family in the countries of Asia, that they may always take the first step to reach out to their neighbor; that they learn to live with a heart open to the young and to the followers of other religions; that they may in this way grow, through listening to and understanding other religions, and thus foster the interreligious dialogue of daily life.

