M 28 : 19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

MARY THE MISSIONER

"Thy Kingdom Come"

We don't build the kingdom of God, the kingdom comes as a Gift.

In the seventy's at the PICC, at a children's choir contest, Don Bosco Tondo (DBT) choir was pitted against Ateneo, Assumption, and other Catholic schools. DBT won.

The judges ruled "This is a children's choir contest.
The other schools had cultured voices similar to that of adults
While the DBT voices are nurtured as a child.

Nurturing acknowledges that the voice is a GIFT and
Respects the timing of the giver (GIFTER)
And the aging of the recipient (GIFTED).

First and foremost Evangelization is NURTURANCE
The Good News is a Gift.

Our Lady and the Mission

Four major interventions of our Lady in the Mission

1. In the Annunciation, our Lady in her nothingness acknowledges and welcomes the GIFT.
In the Visitation itinerary, she brought the GIFT to Elizabeth and John the Baptizer to be leapt for joy in the womb.

GC 26 states that "*Mary, the first to welcome and carry the message of salvation teaches us to create evangelized and evangelizing communities.*"

2. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple gifted Mary: the MISSION is <u>DIVINE</u>.
"My Father's Business"

3. In the Wedding at Cana – Mary links the Mission to human development.
"They have no wine" – a gift of wine to a family. The MISSION is <u>HUMAN</u>.

4. She, standing near the cross of an unrequited gift broken into smithereens

reveals Mary's staying power. At the Pentecost, she stayed with the apostles.

In the cross we find that the <u>Greatest Passion is Compassion</u> – Divine Mercy.

Our Lady of Sorrows drives us to outgrow our passions of anger, lust, pride, sloth, avarice, envy, jealousy, greed and gluttony with the GIFT of <u>mercy</u> and <u>compassion</u>.

MISEREOR – "I have mercy" the driving passion of the mission.

Compassion (to suffer with) drives us, to sail into the deep waters, to go into the wild, to go to the gentiles, "to all nations,"
Mary, the merciful, beckons us to payback the gift of Christification: The Christianity brought to us by the Missionaries.

SIMPLE HINTS: MARY THE MISSIONER

1. What you receive as a gift, give as a gift.
2. Be transformed by the amazing grace not mutate to a monstrous Hydra Complex, different from the founding parents.
3. Get down from your ivory tower, break down your comfort zones and structures, step down from your pedestal.
4. Return to the Fathers, back to the founder. Then GO!
5. Go into the deep, into the wild, Ride the winds, to the frontiers! To Gentile lands.
6. Compassion is the Innate Power, the Driving Power, and the Staying Power of the Missioners.
7. Have mercy on the poor. Set parameter to your greed. Have compassion.
8. In your anger, remember compassion.
9. Remember the SECOND COMING.

MISSIONARY SONG

Set sail into the deep waters
Be not afraid
Christ goes before you
Have no fear
Courage young missioners
Seek gentile lands
Cross over seas and oceans
Seek frontier land
Don Bosco's there before you
Stand brave and tall.

MY FIRST STEP AS A MISSIONARY

BRO. KEMISO ADDIS GEBREKIDAN SDB

The pioneer Salesian missionaries whom I had encountered in my town, Zway Ethiopia , played a great role in my missionary vocation. My vocation and inspiration to be some day a good missionary priest emerged from their presence among us poorest of the poor youngsters. They were there learning our language, being available to our needs both spiritually and materially and offering their total self-giving love. Looking

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> *The pioneer Salesian missionaries were there learning our language, being available to our needs both spiritually and materially and offering their total self-giving love ...*
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back on those days, I can't help but feel deep happiness which I would find in a mission land too. There I will live with the poor youngsters whom I didn't know before. I love to be with them, to lead them to Jesus, to implant in them the seed of loving kindness, and to make them good citizens.

God has been good to me for He answered my prayer when I was assigned to Papua New Guinea (PNG). I spent my second practical training there for a year as a missionary. The first four months I lived in the village of Lariau. It is in the Gulf province situated in the remotest area. Afterwards, in the remaining eight months, I was assigned in Port Moresby - Savio House Community as an assistant to the young candidates who want to be Salesians. Both places had given me a chance to appreciate the beauty of the culture of this country.

As a young missionary, apart from my different outlook on the culture Melanesia, I also had some shocks and had to face some challenges or difficulties. These were homesickness, got to eat sea and local foods, attacked by malaria, and language and culture barrier which made me surrender to misunderstandings.

My reaction to these challenges was to make myself clear and to gain focus to be able to cope with my loneliness and solitude. I decided to have strong and regular sacramental and prayer life, healthy

relationships with many people and to be a friend to all. I believe that through these I can speak the spirituality of our beloved founder, Don Bosco: "Da mihi animas coetera tolle - give me souls and take away the rest." This is the translation of the Gospel in my everyday life. So, the challenges and the difficulties I experienced should be taken as water for the plants for me to grow into a good Salesian missionary.

All of us have a history of

formation or an experience that has been built up over the years. Of course, the older ones have more experiences one will have to claim. Nevertheless, no matter what I have been in the past, no matter what my experience was, or my qualifications are, I have to begin again as a novice. With the grace of humility and patience, I try to become a learner, not a teacher in my new ambience. Eventually, I will be a teacher more by having a good attitude in learning.