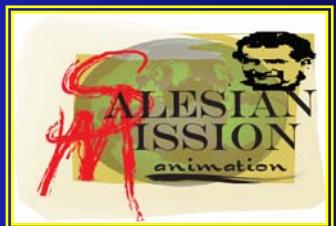


AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSION



St. John Bosco Parish P.O. Box 1336 MCPO 1253 Makati City - Don Bosco Philippine North Province (FIN)

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"HAVE COURAGE, YOU CAN DO MUCH FOR THE BOYS"

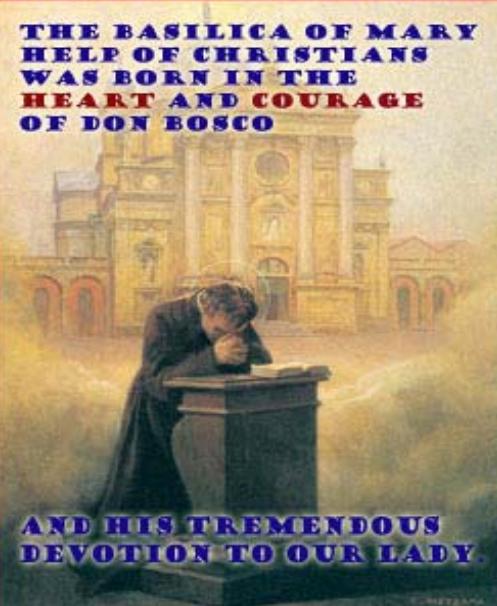
The essence of the inspiration which prompted Don Bosco to dedicate his whole life energy to the salvation of youth was inevitably his dream at 9. The advice given by Mary to little Johnny was to "Make yourself humble, steadfast and strong." This can also be interpreted as to be courageous. The root of this word is heart, *cor*. The whole Salesian spirituality is based on the importance of love in the approach to community and education in every sphere.

Love here means the ability to sacrifice; that is the gift of oneself in promoting the good of the other, with a readiness to suffer in person so that that good might be achieved. Don Bosco himself says, "*If one is to do good, one must have a little courage, be ready for sacrifice, deal affably with all and never slight anyone*". (MB III P39)

Courage in the Salesian Tradition

Re-reading the early years of Don Bosco's mission among the young, one can be amazed to see how creative and ingenious he was in meeting the young wherever they were. Before he had the fully organized Oratory he spent much time connecting with young people where they were. He had the freedom of spirit and courage in visiting inns, taverns, hotels where the usual run of the mill clergy never set foot, so that he might chat to all and sundry in places where they were at ease and enjoying free time. He was so friendly he easily made himself part of the group. He was often invited back and so had the opportunity, gradually, to bring in the good word, the invitation to do something different, to games or even to study. He often invited the whole group to come to his

Sunday Oratory or to come and find him when they needed help or a chat. His genuine kindness and interest nearly always persuaded the adults present to support his requests for these youngsters to get a few hours freedom to come to his home on the



Sunday. Because of his big heartedness and courage in serving the young he was not averse even to breaking up fights or speaking up for the welfare of young workers. "*When one is convinced that the cause is just, one will fear nothing. When I see God offended, I cannot ignore it or do nothing about it. To prevent it I'll fight even a whole army.*" (MBVII P 231)

We can also see that Don Bosco was a man of immense courage. In his vision of how he

would care for the young every opportunity was to be used and no stone left unturned. We see that the early listeners to his visions of schools, workshops, hostels, playgrounds with the best of all types of games and an army of helpers, could only conclude that he was mad. Time was to prove them wrong and his well founded trust in God's immense providence make these dreams come true. He knew the risks but believed that God would provide, if he did the necessary work! Surely this persistence in the face of so many mountainous odds shows us his sure hope. He had a heart big enough with love of God and the young to go to the limit to provide what he saw was necessary for youth. He wanted them to have the space and opportunity to enjoy safe, wholesome surroundings where the message of the Gospel was lived so that they could choose to live by the same Gospel way themselves.

"When we plan something, we should first see whether it will give glory to God. If that is the case, we should go ahead fearlessly because we shall succeed." (MBVII)

The Good Shepherd

In giving us the Good Shepherd as our model Don Bosco has further underlined the need for courage. "In those things which are for the benefit of young people in danger, I push ahead even to the extent of recklessness!"

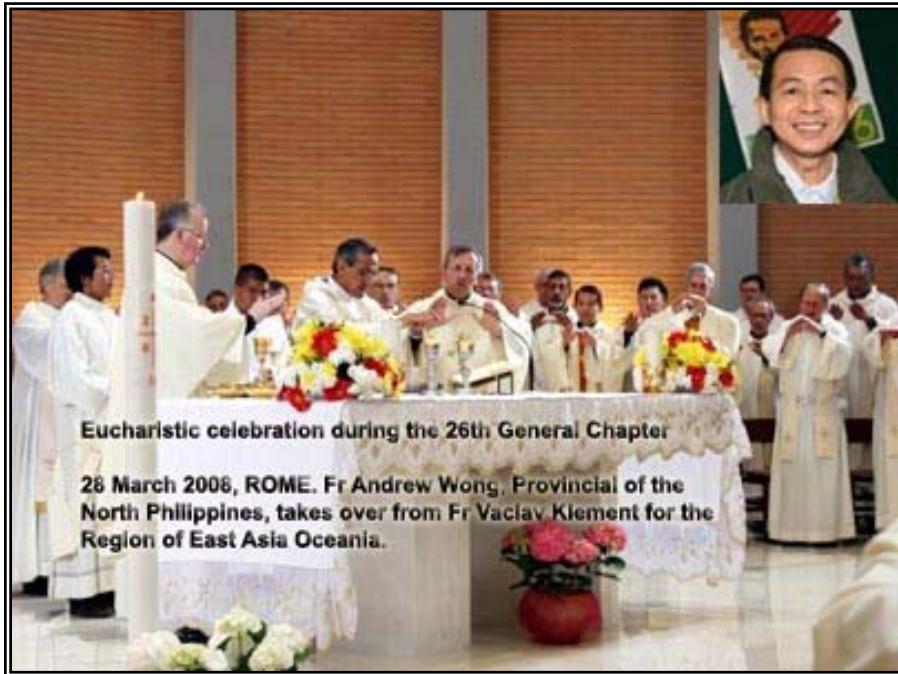
To be courageous in a Salesian sense surely means to act from one's inner spirit, from that which can be said to be a driving passion, so that one rises above pain or pleasure for the greater good of the boys.

SIMPLE HINTS: COURAGE

1. Deal affably with all and never slight anyone.
2. Be fearless in seeking out the young where ever they are.
3. Nurture your courage by being in commune with God in prayer.
4. Make yourself humble, steadfast and strong.
5. A courageous man outgrows his anger and does not raise his voice.
6. Do not fear anyone when protecting the boys from any harm.
7. The root word of courageous is "cor" which means heart. To be courageous is knowing how to love.



FR. ANDREW WONG TAKES OVER AS THE REGIONAL SUPERIOR OF EAST ASIA OCEANIA



Fr Andrew Wong, Provincial of the North Philippines, takes over from Fr Vaclav Klement for the Region of East Asia Oceania. Fr Klement was elected as Councillor for the Missions.

Fr. Wong was born on the 30th of November 1952 at Trinity in the Philippines. Fr. Wong made his novitiate at Canlubang where he took his first vows on the 1st of May 1972. In 1979, he was ordained deacon on the 17th of August and priest on the 7th of December.

With long experience as Director of Novices at Canlubang, Bacolod and Fatumaca (ITM), Fr Wong was appointed in 2005, as Provincial of the Salesians of the North Philippines, having completed his time as Provincial of ITM.

The EAO region is comprised by Australia, China, North and South Philippines, Japan, Indonesia Timor, Korea, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam.

<http://www.sdb.org/ANS/index2.asp?Lingua=2>

EAST ASIA OCEANIA Region is a communion of Salesian Provinces, creatively faithful to Don Bosco charism and effectively collaborating with each other to be evangelizers of the young, especially those who are poor.

It is committed to:

1. **Inculcate the preventive system in the provinces. (Communion, charism, and evangelization)**
2. **Cooperate in common projects of formation, youth ministry, social communications and other services. (Collaboration)**
3. **To use English as the medium of communication in EAO. (Communion)**

REGION - EAST ASIA OCEANIA	
Number of Countries involved	21
Number of Provinces	10
Number of Confreres	1319
Number of Novices	71
Number of Works	168 (138 houses + 30 presences)
Number of Salesian Bishops	12
Average Age of confreres	46.7 years

STATISTICS OF THE WORKS AND ACTIVITIES	
Formation Houses	30
Oratories – Youth Centres	59
School	78
Technical and Agricultural Institutes	41
Boarding Schools and Hostels	41
Works for the promotion of vocations	32
Parishes and missions	117
Social Development works	42
Social Communications and Media	24
Province Services for Youth	30
Some Groups of the Salesian Family	114

(We pray and give our full support to the regional superiors and councilors of the General Council of the Salesians of Don Bosco)