



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

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Editor's Note

BY: RONALD S. LORA

Dear Friends,

We never missed an issue since the inception of the M28 newsletter which was then called the Auxiliaries of the Mission. We began in March 2007 publishing hard copies and sending soft copies by email. At present, we have produced **41 copies** already in our monthly issues tackling different missionary news and stories in order to strengthen missionary animation here in the FIN province.

We have built a respectable database here in the country that reaches out to regional countries as well.

The sad part is that we missed a single issue in the publication of the August newsletter for 2010

And the reason, I broke a leg literally that sent me to the hospital for surgery, recuperation and rest. But all is well. Although, it should have been 42 and not 41, Continued on page 3:

UPDATES: PROGRESS AND HOPE IN Haiti



Last January of this year a massive earthquake hit struck Haiti just before 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, about 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital. The quake was the worst in the region in more than 200 years. A study by the Inter-American Development Bank estimated that the total cost of the disaster was between \$7.2 billion to \$13.2 billion, based on a death toll from 200,000 to 250,000. Earthquakes in the Caribbean

Haiti sits on a large fault that has caused catastrophic quakes in the past, but this one was described as among the most powerful to hit the region.

The Caribbean is not usually considered a seismic danger zone, but earthquakes have struck there in the past.

"There's a history of large, devastating earthquakes," said Paul Mann, a senior research scientist at the Institute for

Geophysics at the University of Texas, "but they're separated by hundreds of years." Most of Haiti lies on the Gonave microplate, a sliver of the earth's crust between the much larger North American plate to the north and the Caribbean plate to the south. The earthquake on Tuesday occurred when what appears to be part of the southern fault zone broke and slid.

The fault is similar in structure to the San Andreas fault that slices through California, Dr. Mann said.

Such earthquakes, which are called strike-slip, tend to be shallow and produce violent shaking at the surface. They can be very devastating, especially when there are cities nearby. An earthquake of this strength had not struck Haiti in more than 200 years, a fact apparently based on contemporaneous accounts. The most powerful one to strike the country in recent years measured 6.7 magnitude in 1984.

Several Salesians are living in a temporary residence that was under construction in April but is now finished. Temporary classrooms have been completed and painted,

The Salesians began educating the poor in Haiti at the invitation of the Haitian government -- the Salesian Sisters (the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) in 1935 and the Salesians of Don Bosco (priests and brothers) in 1936. Salesians in Haiti now number about 85 sisters and 70 priests and brothers. The Salesians are the largest providers of education in Haiti after the government.

A plan to build a new education system in Haiti is one of the most encouraging things to emerge from the rubble of the Jan. 12 earthquake. It is expected to be endorsed at a meeting on Tuesday of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, the joint Haitian-international body created to guide the country's rebuilding.

Nearly all primary schools in Haiti today are private; parents, eager to give their children a better life, pay dearly. Judging from Haiti's high illiteracy and dropout rates and dire lack of qualified teachers, the system needs a complete overhaul.

The plan to reinvent the education sector is hugely ambitious but relatively simple. It does not try to build entirely from scratch — many schools will still be privately run. But the government, with international help, will provide generous subsidies to parents who choose to send their children to schools that accept new layers of oversight and accountability, including government accreditation, a modernized national curriculum and teacher retraining. These schools will also have to be certified as structurally sound.

The goal is to provide universal free or nearly-free education for kindergarten through 12th grades in accredited schools, with eventual government financing. The full transformation is expected to take 20 years.

Eight months after the quake, the list of things that need to be fixed in Haiti is dauntingly, disturbingly long. Indeed, there are still more than one million people who are displaced and need homes. This education plan, built with a constructive mix of homegrown initiative and outside help, should be a model for moving other desperately needed projects forward. There is no time to waste. There is still an enormous amount of work to do but the scene is more hopeful.

“Just as in a family everyone gathers around a sick child, so, moved by great ‘com-compassion’ we want to share the burden of this extraordinary emergency and help in a very practical way this small Vice Province so sorely tried.”

Our Confreres in Haiti have been sorely tried but without doubt they are turning to us. They are asking for help and support so that Don Bosco may be able to continue his work in this country and may give them a sign of hope as they continue along their path as Salesians. For days they have been living out in the open with thousands of other people”

Fr Pascual Chávez



CELEBRATING DOMISAL 2010 IN FIN PROVINCE

Attention: Spiritual Moderators / Pastoral Affairs in-charge

We are requesting our spiritual moderators to find time in order to schedule the celebration of the Domisal for the year 2010. We encourage you to document your activities and share it with us for others to hear about the work we do to promote missionary animation in our settings.

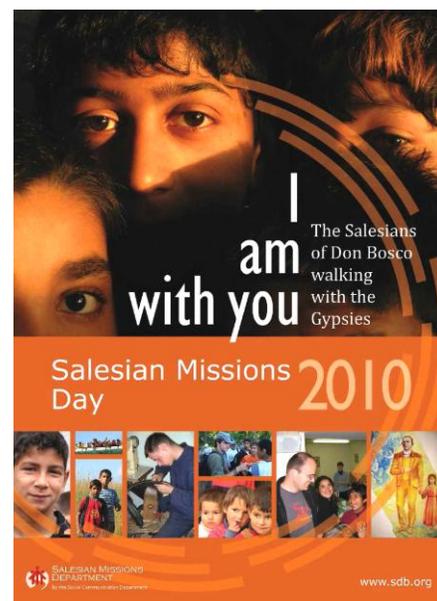
Since 1988, its main aim has been to give **IMPULSE to missionary animation throughout the Congregation by offering something by way of an annual project**, and it is usually based on some frontier situation; it is set up along similar lines to the World Mission Day proclaimed by the Pope. It is not an isolated event, rather a chance to involve our SDB and EPC communities in the missionary dynamic of the universal Church, so it has a broad perspective.

DOMISAL aims to arouse

- * Missionary cooperation, by presenting some current Salesian missionary work
- * Fervour for mission in Salesian communities and their work (SDB, youth, Salesian Family, lay people)
- * An opening up of minds and hearts to make room for the missionary activity of the universal Church and the Congregation
- * A new faith-filled enthusiasm for missions and especially missionary vocations *ad gentes*

The campaign of the Salesian Mission Day 2010 *The Salesians walking with the Gypsies* wants to contribute through the means of social communication 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)

In the Philippines, we remember to pray for the Salesian Family in Europe during 2010, especially for the intention of overcoming prejudices against Gypsies. We should realize and answer the question when will people stop persecuting this vulnerable minority for their way of life and realize that they are part of the fabric of humanity for hundreds of years including other marginalized groups in society



Editor's Note (from page 1)

we are coming up with a special loaded issue for the month of September. It is extra special because we celebrate Mama Mary's birthday on September 8. She has been Don Bosco's protector and guide in guiding the young grow up to become holy and upright citizens. We renew our efforts to promote missionary animation through news, missionary stories from priests and volunteers assigned in mission stations and remembering missionary pioneers who worked in Philippines shores to establish what Don Bosco is in the Philippines right now. Help us with your comments, suggestions and contributions. Marmaing salamat po. (Editor)

Salesian Groups in Pakistan Respond to Floods In Areas Where UN Hasn't Reached; Need Funds



QUETTA, Pakistan.- Salesians are distributing food and supplies to thousands of families that have sought safety from the massive floods ravaging Pakistan.

Last week, a Vienna-based Salesian non-governmental organization provided Salesian Father Peter Zago, based in Quetta, Pakistan, with an initial contribution of €5,000 (\$6,360). He is using the money for families that have been displaced as the monsoons move south; more than 50,000 families from Sibi and other areas are spread throughout four or five camps.

As in 2005 when an earthquake devastated Pakistan, the Salesians have organized groups of young leaders, so as to reach more people. The goal has been to give each family a survival kit to last for a month.



The Salesian Info Agency reported that as much as 20% of the country is under water and 15.4 million people have been affected by the floods. Father Zago told Vatican Radio: "This morning we received around 100 families and gave them what is essential at least for a month: flour and oil to cook 'chapatti,' their basic meal, some beans and medicine. We have children, boys and girls, some of whom are presenting symptoms of cholera and other diseases due to non-treated drinking water."

Salesians are sheltering 1,500 families -- some 150,000 people. "We have received significant help from Germany and Austria, but we are in need of more," the Salesian said. "[...] We have more than 100 families coming from areas as far as 850 kilometers (530 miles) [away]."



"Here the U.N. is not yet present. We are private institutions at work. We have €80,000 (\$102,000) and we are the only ones helping around here, looking after the families that are most in need. "Approaching the local merchants we tell them: 'Look, we are taking care of your Muslim brothers, give us a good discount.' They prepare daily 50 portions for me, containing almost everything, and I don't see anyone else around coming to give any help."

Father Zago noted that when the funds run out he will have to stop the humanitarian aid. He recounted how the initial distribution of supplies was not easy: "We were literally attacked by people of all ages, men, women and children crying. They quickly surrounded the car in which we were traveling. For security reasons, we took down data through the windows of the car. Then the climate changed when the people had the amount of food that we gave each one."

The other Salesian community in Pakistan, in Lahore, is also directly aiding areas affected by the floods.

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

“Don’t make a big fuss of it,” was the straightforward way **Fr. George Schwarz** reacted to an invitation to share some thoughts on his 50 years in the priesthood. His life was one of quietly working on the background. Several thousands of teachers all over the country have benefited from his science seminars and free science kits given to each participant. “One of the spiritual works of mercy,” writes a Dominican sister, “is to instruct the ignorant.” How Fr. George excelled in this! His boyish gaiety reminds me of St. John Bosco. Like Don Bosco, Father George lives only for others. He spends all his time, energy and money to help others ... Humbly speaking his charity is greater than this.



Wherever he has gone, he has left behind a well-equipped laboratory and today DBC’s equipment is second to none in the country. His association with science began in Shanghai. But in 1948 he was transferred to Chiuchow to take his position as rector. In 1954 he spent just a few months in Mandaluyong then took in Victorias and later Tarlac, Mandaluyong and Tarlac again as rector to complete 18 years in this office. It was through his instrumentality and the generosity of the German people that the main building in Tarlac was built. This was in 1965. He saw to the expansion of Mandaluyong and the four-storey building as well as setting on foot the highly appreciated college and technical course in Mechanics and Electronics which filled an urgent need in a technically oriented age. After a year or so of home leave he returned to spend the next 15 years at what he likes best: teaching science in Don Bosco Seminary Canlubang. At present, he is a confessor due to his advanced age. His entrance into Salesian and religious life is still a mystery to him today. “Vocation is like that. If the Lord wants you, he wants you,” He states:

“At the beginning of the novitiate, one evening the Novice Master gave a conference on religious life. “Religious life?” I asked, “I have to be careful and find out what it is!” I went to see the Novice Master. Not sure of myself I had handed up half of what I had! I simply stayed because I liked it. It is the same today. People will stay if they like it. There was never a problem about vocation with me. Besides going to the missions... that was romantic. It was an adventure. Some of my friends went. I went. They left. I remained. Vocation is something... if the Lord wants you, he wants you.”

By Fr. Remo Bati

Snippets

Every time there were no superiors who will give a goodnight talk to the seminarians, Fr. George would usually approach the altar in the big chapel in Canlubang to share his reflections. Very often he would start quoting the Gospel where Jesus was entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The donkey thought that all the accolades and praises given by the people were meant for him, little did he realize that it was for the man who was riding him. He imparts the lesson that Jesus must take precedence in our lives before our selves.

Fr. George does not fail to honor our Blessed Mother and Don Bosco by consistently putting flowers in the statues in the corner of the big Chapel.

Fr. George says his rosary at night and ends visiting the cemetery praying to the statue of the crucified Christ.

September 8, 2010

Dear Fr. Rector,

Re: Missionary Animation visit to Salesian Settings both Schools and Parishes

Once again, we would like to make our rounds of visit in the different Salesian Settings to monitor the missionary animation desk we have begun last year.

For this year's agenda, we would like to present the following topics:

- Feedback on EAO Regional Missionary Animation Meeting of November 2009.
- The celebration of the DOMISAL with the theme "The Salesians of Don Bosco walking together with young Gypsies" (2010)
 - Poster Making Contest for Elementary and High School level
 - Essay writing contest regarding the DOMISAL theme
- Missionary Animation Symposium
- Lay Missionary Volunteerism Ad Gentes Ad Extra
- Volunteers proclaiming the Gospel (2011)
- Missionary Animation Desk (Feedback)

We would like to relaunch the Mission Animation Desk which has been the directive of Fr. Vaclav Klement, the Councillor for the Missions. This is a re-echoing to the newly assigned spiritual moderator of the house and at the same time meant to strengthen missionary animation advocacy.

Thank you very much.

Fr. Salvador Pablo
Missionary Animation Delegate

