

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission



Dear friends of the Salesians and Salesian mission,

This time I want to remember the life and memory of a great missionary and Provincial of Brazil-Manaus, Fr. Benjamin Morando, SDB (1943-2012) born in Italy, who has spent 48 years in the Amazon region of Brazil. During my visit of animation to the Province of Manaus, after having accompanied me for two weeks to the five missionary presences in the Amazon jungle of Rio Negro, he unexpectedly passed away on May 5, 2012 due to an embolism.

Meditating on the message of the life of Fr. Benjamin a few weeks after his death, it dawned on me that his death gives us. I found a keyword to summarise his life: "Inculturation".

In fact the mission of Yaurete was nearest to his heart. In 1994 he founded an aspirantate for indigenous vocation. Now we have four native priests in the area and quite a number of young Salesians in formation.

A dear friend of Fr. Benjamin, Dom Edson Damian, Bishop of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Brazil - Amazonas, has shared during the funeral Mass in Manaus May 7, 2012 this testimony:

"Out of his 69 years, Fr. Benjamin has given 48 of it to the mission in the Amazon. He gave all of himself into each of the tasks assigned to him in the missionary Province of the Amazon.



Fr. Benjamin Morando with Fr. Václav Klement

the witness and the dream of a great missionary

But I think it was the Church of Rio Negro, in particular in Yauaretê, where he faced the greatest challenges, where he experienced the happiest and most intense years of his life. Since Sister Death visited him by surprise, he had no time to write his memoirs, although he left a will written with his heart and feet. St. Augustine tells us that "it is our feelings that move our feet."

"His last work was in accompanying Fr. Václav Klement, Councillor for the Salesian Missions. Together they visited the five presences scattered throughout the vast Amazon of Rio Negro. The mission of Yauaretê is the furthest of all. I intentionally made my visit to coincide with the celebrations and festivities of the Week of Indigenous Peoples. Here Fr. Benjamin also presided in what would be his last Eucharist.

"I spoke with Fr. Benjamin when he went to São Gabriel, one day before returning to Manaus with Fr. Václav, just four days later we would leave us. He described with enthusiasm the vitality of indigenous peoples of Yauaretê: the organization of communities, the beauty of the dances, the work of lay leaders, the Salesian vocations for the next ordination. He whispered to me that he planned to increase the mission in Rio Negro. Finally he told me: "An inculturated evangelization will be realized only when we have more vocations and when indigenous missionaries in this region will remain here."

We have lost a Salesian but we have gained an intercessor in heaven.

The holiness of Salesian missionaries is passed on through the path of inculturation!

Václav Klement

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

I strive to live, deepen and hand on the charism of Don Bosco in Bangladesh



My first contact with the missions began when I joined the missionary group in the Theologate in Krakow. Right during our first meeting I was immediately captivated by the Congregation's missionary activity. After my ordination, Fr. Provincial sent me to work in a Salesian school in Świętochłowice. In addition to the various responsibilities of the school I was also the animator of the Akwaba Missionary Volunteers, this is a volunteer branch of the SWM Krakow. I was involved with a group of young people who were preparing a "holiday camp" for children in Ghana (Africa). Thanks to this decisive experience my desire to be a missionary grew deeper. I lived and experienced within me great joy. I realised that the smile of a child from the slums is much more valuable than many things. I saw that the world really needs preachers of the Gospel and witnesses of Christ. This experience led to my resolve to volunteer to be a missionary. I was sent by the Recto Major to

the newly started Salesian presence in Bangladesh

In 2010, before leaving, I had the opportunity to participate in the Course for New Missionaries in Rome and Turin. During that one month the possibility to meet other missionaries and listen to lectures and experiences in a friendly atmosphere helped me to learn the ropes of being a missionary. Yet, it was only when I arrived in Bangladesh that I really understood the usefulness of what we learnt during the course.

I am deeply indebted to God for calling me to be a Salesian priest. Don Bosco continues his work through us Salesians today through the Preventive System. As a missionary in Bangladesh, where the majority, are Muslims, I consider myself fortunate to be able to strive to live, deepen and hand on this precious legacy of Don Bosco in a country where the Salesian presence is just 6 years old. I seek to practice the Preventive System in my ordinary daily missionary activity and in a concrete way in my dealings with the hostel boys, with children in the Oratory and with the people at large in the newly opened mission of Lokhikul.

Despite the fact that Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and beset with many problems, I love this place and its people. Meeting the local people is something I look forward to every day.



*Fr. Paweł Kociolek
Polish, missionary in Bangladesh*



15th June 2012 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS



Salesian Missionary Intention

EUROPA - For Young Christians in Poland

That young believers in Poland, confiding their daily life to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may grow in being true witnesses of the Christian life in Europe.

The youthful vitality of the four Provinces in Poland is a great resource for the new evangelisation of the European continent. We pray that our confreres in Poland may know how to journey with young people to help them develop a deep and active faith in today's multicultural and multireligious society.



All previous issues of "Cagliari 11" are available at purl.org/sdb/sdl/Cagliari