

CAGLIERO11



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«Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation»

11 May 2009

Dear confreres - missionaries of the young, dear friends of the Salesian missions!

During the Marian month of May I often find myself repeating the important wisdom of our early Salesians "WITHOUT MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS WE SALESIANS ARE NOTHING." This was said by St Louis Versiglia. In fact we can listen to the experience of our confreres in every continent, that Mary always goes before us, is near to us, guides and protects us as her children. From that first Basilica of Mary Help of Christians built by the early missionaries in Buenos Aires, and now the picture of Mary Help of Christians, work of one of our young artists in Mongolia at the mission in Darkhan we can sense that Mary is close by.

To Mary Help and Mother of the Church we entrust all 35 candidates of the 140th missionary expedition for 27 September 2009, from the youngest who is just 22 to the oldest who is 69.

We pray to Mary Help of Christians that the missionary flame will burn wherever we are: "Virgin Mary, teach us not to be afraid of speaking to Jesus about the world and of Jesus to the world." (John Paul II, *Ecclesia in Asia* 51).

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
General Councillor for the Missions

From the General Councillor

**New missionaries sought
 (America)**

**Salesian missionary intention
 May 2009**

**I entrust all missionaries to Mary
 in the Upper Room**

**Prayer to Mary Help of Christians
 for China**

Salesian missions are looking for new missionaries . . . ! (America)

Province - country	languages needed	Characteristics of the place and qualities which missionaries will require
PAR Chaco-Vicariate	Spanish	Vicariate of Chaco, a few older SDBs, refounding the mission
ANT Cuba	Spanish	Poor country, communist regime, pastoral work only, no schools, few confreres
ABB Patagonia	Spanish	Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, weak Church, lacking pastors, rural mission, lworking amongst the Mapuches
PER Vicariate	Spanish, local languages	Amazon mission – Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, few confreres, pastoral work amongst Ashuar
VEN Vicariate	Spanish, local languages	Amazon mission – Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, few confreres, pastoral work amongst Yanomani
ECU Vicariate	Spanish, local languages	Amazon mission – Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, few confreres, pastoral work amongst Ashuar-Shuar

Salesian missionary intention – May 2009

«That the whole Salesian Family in Mongolia – SDB and FMA missionaries, first Mongolian Salesian Cooperators - may patiently and constantly continue the work of education to faith of children and young people»

The very young Church in Mongolia saw its first baptisms only in 1994, and now has around 600 faithful and 60 missionaries who help their faith to mature. The community in Darkhan has been involved in work of first evangelisation since 2005, and now has some 90 Catholics and around 30 catechumens. The two communities in Ulabaatar run educational services for poor youth and lead the young Catholic communities through our pastoral ministry.

I Entrust all Missionaries to Mary in the Upper Room

Today, as never before, the Church has the opportunity of bringing the Gospel, by witness and word, to all people and nations. I see the dawning of a new missionary age, which will become a radiant day bearing an abundant harvest, if all Christians, and missionaries and young churches in particular, respond with generosity and holiness to the calls and challenges of our time.

Like the apostles after Christ's Ascension, the Church must gather in the Upper Room "together with Mary, the Mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14), in order to pray for the Spirit and to gain strength and courage to carry out the missionary mandate. We too, like the apostles, need to be transformed and guided by the Spirit.

On the eve of the third millennium the whole Church is invited to live more intensely the mystery of Christ by gratefully cooperating in the work of salvation. The Church does this together with Mary and following the example of Mary, the Church's Mother and model: Mary is the model of that maternal love which should inspire all who cooperate in the Church's apostolic mission for the rebirth of humanity. Therefore, "strengthened by the presence of Christ, the Church journeys through time toward the consummation of the ages and goes to meet the Lord who comes. But on this journey ...she proceeds along the path already trodden by the Virgin Mary."

To "Mary's mediation, wholly oriented toward Christ and tending to the revelation of his salvific power," I entrust the Church and, in particular, those who commit themselves to carrying out the missionary mandate in today's world.

(John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, 92)



first salesian cooperators from Mongolia



Mary Help of Christians as painted by Bayaa a teacher and a catechumen in Darkhan, Mongolia

PRAYER TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FOR CHINA

Virgin most holy, Help of Christians, Mother of Christ, Patroness and Guide for China, intercede for the Church, for the Chinese People and the Youth entrusted to your motherly care.

Fill all with the desire to know the Father's loving plan, the courage to accept Christ's Gospel, the willingness to grow in the Holy Spirit.

Keep all kinds of evil far from your children. Defend them from the dangers of materialism and religious indifference. Raise up holy vocations among them, faithful to the service of God's Kingdom.

Grant us, too, waiting in trust for the miracles our father Don Bosco foresaw, the same deep faith as his, the same passion and thirst for souls. Make us faithful to our charism and to our preference for poor and abandoned youth.

Give us courage to dream, boldness in daring, wisdom in loving deeds, perseverance in giving our all for the mission, and purity of life which reflects your own.

You, who at Cana hastened your Son's Hour, be as anxious now to show your motherly care, and bring your people a speedy revealing of freedom, peace and joy in listening to your Son.