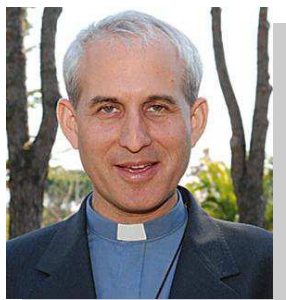


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



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



Dear friends of Don Bosco Missionary!

We are in the missionary month par excellence in the Catholic Church. In recent times we have been involved in many different missionary formation courses in Shillong, in Quito and Rome (Generalate and the Salesian Pontifical University).

An interesting observation: the missionaries who neglect their ongoing formation, become more ignorant, and at the same time, little by little, their initial zeal, their "first love" (cf.. Rev. 2, 4) is also extinguished. On the contrary, the capacity to organise well and gener-

ously one's time for ongoing formation is a clear indication of the quality of a missionary. How beautiful it is to see that many do this in the different Provinces of the world !

At the same time, this commitment to formation, often has a high material cost. For example, to study in a professional way the different languages of the peoples to whom the missionaries are sent, often involves a heavy budget. Will there be also missionary solidarity for this purpose? We hope so!

A better quality of missionary formation: this is another beautiful gift to offer to our dear Father Don Bosco during his jubilee year!

Thank you !

Guillermo Basañes
Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions

The Rector Major

“Not only give, but also receive more than what you give”

During the meeting with the missionaries of the 145th Salesian Missionary Expedition, at the Generalate on December 9, 2014, the Rector Major emphasised the importance of the missions in the Congregation and that *“our reference will always be the Gospel, the Constitutions and Regulations (...) we must have eyes always on the origins, on Don Bosco, the first Salesians, the earlier Rector Majors and the early missionaries, because as always, from the beginning, we are a missionary congregation”*.

He stressed: *“You are a group of Salesians who have felt a special calling to reach out to others, this touches the very Salesian roots; and we believe that in the coming years, the Lord will continue to call so many other confreres for the mission ad gentes”*.

On the other hand, he pointed out a central element in understanding the role they play in the mission: *“You are sent to different Provinces not only to give a bit of new air, of strength, and of support; nor with the intention of solving a problem in a Province, but you are sent to proclaim the Gospel to young people and to those most in need; and when a new brother arrives in a community, he enriches it with one's knowledge, culture and vocation”*.

He also stressed: *“Today to say 'Salesians' means being among the poorest and the most needy in society; it should not be just a slogan, but a reality (...) it must be the missionary passion that every Salesian feels to reach out to young people; so, we need a congregation more close to them, to the people, to society; this will ensure the continuity of the charism and the mission.”*

And as a final message, the Rector Major focused on love, commitment and work: *“An important aspect is to love the people who welcome you; sometimes you see confreres who feel they are colonizers of the place in which they have arrived, I saw it in Africa, where some missionaries feel like white Europeans with power (...) Work and Temperance is the recommendation, and to work does not mean to make and do things in a hurry; remember that you go not only to give but also to receive, and sometimes even get more than what you give”*.



My experiences in the postnovitiate led me to offer myself totally for the missions



My missionary vocation was born at the novitiate, through a missionary appeal in 2009. However, the experiences during the three years of post-novitiate, where those which led me to commit myself to the missions. In the first place, my apostolate in a dangerous slum of Lome in Togo for two years with the children of migrant fishermen from Ghana; then my summer experiences in the first year with the street children of Porto Novo in Benin; in the second year with war refugees in Duekoe in Ivory Coast. These experiences have been strengthened by what I experienced in Sierra Leone, where I was sent by my Provincial for a year of practical training in order to have a missionary experience in view of helping me discern my missionary vocation. There I was assistant to the aspirants and I had the opportunity to work among the poor children and youth, the majority of whom

are Muslims, as well as in several areas, such as schools, the oratory and the parish. It was a great experience which allowed me to experience new forms of pastoral organisations of the English-speaking world and follow a new rhythm of life different from my French-speaking origin. The key for me was that during this year I felt really at the service of those for whom I wanted to offer my life as a missionary. Thus, after that year of discernment I did not hesitate to ask boldly to be sent to the missions in order to offer myself totally at the service of the young and poor children wherever the congregation will send me to meet them.

It is certainly true that my country and my Province are in need of missionaries, but I wanted my “yes” to reach young people and children, wherever I am deemed worthy to serve them. To me the *Course for New Missionaries* and the pilgrimage to the places of origin of our charism has been golden opportunities for formation, a return to the sources and a preparation for this mission. Thus, immediately after the course I arrived full of enthusiasm in South Sudan in 2013, where I was sent by the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chávez.

In this new mission, I have lived poor with the poor because I have lived almost like them without spending money and by following a simple diet. I lived in situations which I had never imagined and which were very difficult from the Salesian, Christian, or human point of view. But these experiences have made me mature as a Salesian and helped me to make some resolutions for the rest of my initial formation and also for my Salesian life.

Cl. Hubert Zoubinu
Togolese, missionary in South Sudan



Witness of salesian missionary sanctity



“Beware of being gloomy. The one who is always frowning, gloomy, shows that, in his soul or in his nerves, there is something wrong. May joy and happiness never leave you. You’ll have to work amongst people who lead a hard life, you have to comfort them, make them happy. May your holiness be calm, clear, happy” (October 22, 1932).

From an address of the Servant of God Cardinal Augusto Hlond (1881-1948), Salesian and founder of the *Society of Christ for Polish Immigrants*



Salesian Missionary Intention

For Pastoral work amongst migrants from Latin America to the United States

That they may discover God’s love through the range of services they receive from the Salesians and lay people who help those without documents, education, catechesis, and show solidarity to the hungry and homeless ...

There are more than 40 million people of Latin American origin in the United States and more than 11 million there without documents and hence with no legal rights. They suffer exploitation at work and live in precarious circumstances... many Latin American migrants leave the Catholic Church for want of adequate pastoral accompaniment. In 2011 the Interamerica Region initiated a Pastoral Project of work for migrants. It sought to develop teamwork amongst Provinces in the Americas and strengthen the work already carried out in the two US Provinces (SUE e SUO).

