

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Are You «Mobile» Like St. Callixtus Caravario?

Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions!

Human mobility is a sign of our times. A lot of people move for political, social or economic reasons. At the beginning of January 2011 I visited Courgnè, near Turin, the birthplace of our saintly missionary Fr. Callixtus Caravario. His letters to his mother are at your fingertips (www.sdb.org, ed. LAS Rome, 2000). It is a strikingly short life, just 27 years. He lived a mobile life for a different reason. Callixtus was always available for the mission as a young man. He traveled thousands of kilometres [Piedmont - Shanghai - Hong Kong - Guangzhou - Dili in East Timor - Shiu Chow (the Vicariate entrusted to the Salesians)].



He had to learn many different languages (English, Cantonese, Shanghainese, Portuguese) in a few months, all for the mission!

But not a word of complaint about the difficult challenges could be found in his letters! I invite you to pray to our saintly Martyred Missionaries Bishop Luigi Versiglia and Fr. Callixtus Caravario that Salesians may maintain the same "mobility" for the missions. In practical terms: to date we have only nine confirmed candidates for the 142nd missionary expedition (September 25, 2011). Our willingness to be mobile depends on our rootedness in Jesus

Christ!

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councilor for the Missions

«Da Mihi Animas» Until the Shedding of Blood

Pope Benedict XVI recently pointed out that «our world continues to be marked by violence, especially against the disciples of Christ» (December 26, 2010). In fact 1 bishop, 15 priests, 1 religious (lay brother Luis Enrique Pineda SDB), 1 sister, 2 seminarians and 3 lay pastoral workers were killed in 2010. These brothers and sisters offered their lives, almost always in the silence and humility of daily work, «in order to bear witness to their faith, in the conviction that every human being needs Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death and reconciled humankind to God» (*Redemptoris Missio*, 11). **March 24**, the anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, is a **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Missionaries and Pastoral Workers who were killed in 2010**. Let us remember them by proposing concrete actions which foster awareness among young people and the community.

In 1983 on the occasion of the beatification of the Salesian protomartyrs Fr. Viganò wrote a letter where he underlined that every asceticism has its own particular style of oblation and self-donation in the bloodless sharing in the passion of Christ. In the spirit of Don Bosco this particular style is countersigned in the light of our *da mihi animas* lived every inch of the way to its extreme consequences: martyrdom of love and sacrifice for the good of others.

Fr. Viganò pointed out that «it is this same "apostolic charity for the good of others" that characterised the sufferings and shedding of blood of our two martyrs: they were killed because they were active Christian apostles and particularly because they were defending the human dignity and virtue of three young Chinese girls. It was from this characteristic Salesian spirit that Bishop Versiglia and Father Caravario derived their supreme capacity for suffering and the shedding of blood. Indeed we know that Bishop Versiglia had foreseen the fulfillment of his Salesian missionary vocation according to Don Bosco's prophetic dream, when he said to Fr. Sante Garelli, "You are bringing me the chalice seen by our Founder; it is I who must fill it with blood"!» (*Matryrdom and Suffering in the Apostolic Spirit of Don Bosco*, ACS 308).





My Response to the Love of the Lord

After spending a month of intense formation for the missionary life in Rome, I was sent as a missionary in Brazil in the Salesian Province of Recife. The *Orientation Course for New Missionaries* in Rome gave me a drive on my interior life and made me better prepared to face various situations that are part of missionary life.

Animated by the missionary fervour and zeal, I soon got acquainted with the confreres and the work of the Province. Thus, I found it rather easy to be among the confreres and youth from time to time, but without being able to say a word to them because of the language barrier. The

Portuguese language was a great test for me at the start of my missionary experience, because I arrived in Brazil without knowing how to formulate even just a sentence in Portuguese while everyone around me spoke only Portuguese and very little Italian which I can, at least, understand. So I felt like a newborn baby in their midst.

This situation made me fragile from the point of view of my religious and missionary vocation. It was during this time that I felt the importance of reminding myself, with firmness and faith, my primary motivation in committing myself to the religious and missionary life. During this stage of initial integration, I was spiritually accompanied by the Rector of my community, and I was also helped by a Salesian who had been a missionary in India. He helped me a lot. My religious and missionary vocation is simply for me a response to the infinite love that the Lord fills me. It is an expression of gratitude, a desire for total self-giving, which makes me desire to say the words of St. Paul: «Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel» (1Cor 9, 16).

God, who alone can probe the hearts, knows the reasons which sometimes our minds cannot comprehend. God said to Abraham: «Leave your country and your family and go into the land I will show thee» (Gen 12,1); this motivates me a lot. And now I'm ready, with my Salesian confreres, to contribute and continue the work of Don Bosco in the field of education and vocational training and thus open a future which is brighter and safer for young northeastern Brazilians.

Bro. Maximillian Kolbe
Congolese, missionary in Brazil

Africans, You are Missionaries to the Whole World!

«The Church in Africa is not called to bear witness to Christ only on the Continent ; [...] The prophetic phrase of Paul VI, 'You Africans are missionaries to yourselves', is to be understood as 'missionaries to the whole world' " [...]. An appeal is launched to the particular Churches of Africa for mission outside the confines of their own Dioceses »

(John Paul II, *Ecclesia in Africa*, 128, 129)



MISSIONARIES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST SOUGHT

Country - Province	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
Turkey, Iran - MOR	Turk, Persian	Islamic context, multireligious, witness of life, great need to rejuvenate the Province-robust vocations
Morocco - FRA	French, Arabic	Islamic context, educative work, mission of witness and service, any form of explicite evangelisation is not allowed (R22)
Tunisia - IRL	French, Arabic	Islamic context, educative work, mission of witness and service, any form of explicite evangelisation is not allowed (R22)



Salesian Missionary Intention

African Region

For the young Christians of Africa that they may prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage, especially in the Salesian context of the Vice Province of the Salesians ZMB: Zambia-Malawi-Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The Synod for Africa, underlined: «as an institution, the family has a divine origin. It is the 'sanctuary of life' and the nucleus of society and the Church. It is the proper place to learn and practice the culture of forgiveness, peace, reconciliation and harmony» (Proposition 51). In fact, besides a commitment to Salesian religious vocations, what is urgently needed in Africa is to strengthen the content on the family and marriage in the pastoral care of vocations among young people by strengthening the preparation of young people for the sacrament of marriage. Among the countries most affected by AIDS are some of the territory of the Vice Province of ZMB (Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia).



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com