

CAGLIERO

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Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



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The 148th Missionary Expedition that the Rector Major will send off from Valdocco on 24 September 2017 has more colour and form than any earlier ones. 21 Salesians from around the world are ready for their marching orders. Three of them are Salesian Brothers and eighteen are priests and clerics. Sixteen of these missionaries are still in formation, and their average age is 26.6 years. The youngest is twenty-two! And one of the priests is 61 years! Beautiful! Don Bosco smiles and takes pleasure in seeing the growth and courage of his children. Three of the destinations are of particular interest: two trainees will leave for Japan, the land of Don Cimatti; two other trainees, for Yakutia - Siberia, in eastern Russia, among the coldest areas in the world; and two others - a priest and a perpetually professed coadjutor - will be members of the first Salesian presence in Malaysia, which will become the 134th country with a Salesian presence.

Everyone is ready to go anywhere and forever!

This is the Society of St. Francis de Sales Don Bosco dreamed of and founded! A Missionary Society!

Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB, Councillor for the Missions

With Don Bosco ... on vacation!

In many countries in the northern hemisphere, young people are in vacation in July and August. This creates also a great opportunity for missionary volunteering. The Congregation has a very rich and varied experience in this area. Many young people spend a few weeks, even a month, in various forms of apostolate, animation, volunteering or summer experiences in different parts of the world. From Slovakia some young people go to Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Siberia; from the Czech Republic to Bulgaria; from Slovenia to Angola; from Malta and Austria to India; from Italy to Egypt, from Spain to Morocco, from the United States to Mexico.

It is internally, within their own countries, above all, where the most varied activities take place, such as summer camps: In Italy there are the "summer boys", in Australia, "Cagliari camps", in Brazil "Boscolandia". Some other initiatives are more missionary, such as the "mission weeks" or the GAM (Missionary Action Groups) in San Paulo; the JMS (Salesian Missionary Youth) in Uruguay; the GRUMS (Missionary Groups) in Colombia; in the Democratic Republic of Congo the active members of "Missionary Groups" go to rural areas on holidays; in Angola more than a hundred university students go "to experience mission" in the forgotten areas of the country. We could go on indefinitely over the entire Congregation: India, Vietnam, Nigeria, Ghana, Madagascar, Australia, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela ... all with similar experiences.

And what do they do? The types of activity vary depending on the context. There are the typical activities of daily oratories, remedial learning, activities of cultural formation of young people; Bible-study groups, human rights education, health education, emotional and sexual education, pastoral animation of groups; workshops of handicrafts, theatre, dance, music, sports, tournaments. They may make family visits, where they pray together, reading a passage from the Bible and blessing the home.

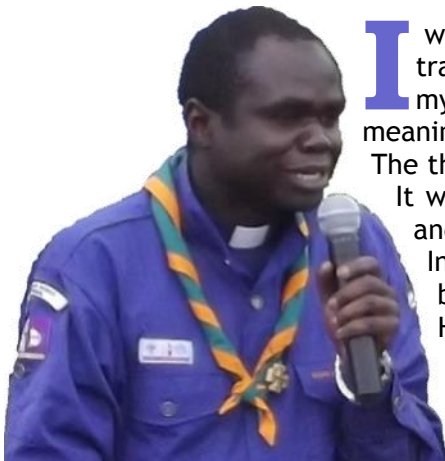
The good that comes to the missions is great, but what is even greater is what takes place in the hearts of the young "missionaries", giving rise to an explosion of happiness, which will positively influence their lives for ever. I once received an SMS from a girl who was returning from one of these missionary vacations. She was from a wealthy family, one of a group of 30 university students in Angola. They had been to a difficult place, hot, very poor, infested with mosquitoes, malaria, no toilets, sleeping on mats on the ground, ... Her message read: "Thank you very much, Father, for making me discover where true happiness is."

Happy holidays in the missions!



P. Martín Lasarte, sdb

“ I FEEL WANTED, WELCOMED AND ACCOMPANIED ”



I was a member of the 144th Missionary Expedition (2013). We received the usual training at Rome and Turin. When I finally reached my mission in France, I found myself in a sea of real difficulties to find my place in the community and a meaning in my presence. I even questioned my Salesian vocation.

The third meeting of the Missionaries of Project Europe took place at Munich in 2016. It was the first programme of this sort for me after the initial formation in Rome, and I was doubly impressed.

In the first place I realized that I am really participating in a project that goes beyond my personal plans and aspirations, a project that has its origins in the Holy Spirit. It has already produced great fruits through other confreres who are responding to Him with enthusiasm.

In addition, at Munich in Bavaria, it became clear that, for the provinces that welcome us, Project Europe is not something to be

added on to or in parallel to the Provincial project. It is a renewal of the Salesian charism "together with" the confreres of the Province we join. It is a project we build together with them. This rid me of the guilt feelings I used to have, thinking I was not contributing enough to France.

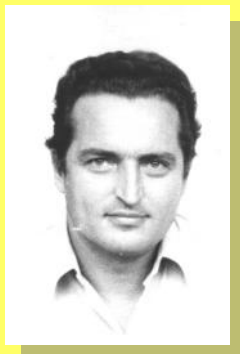
I believe that, in our FRB province, we have been fortunate to have a provincial that is open and very supportive of Project Europe. His advice animates the implementation of the project. This has had a significant positive impact on our integration as missionaries from abroad. We feel wanted, welcomed and accompanied.

To return to my personal case, at my arrival I was sent to the community where the current Provincial was the Rector and Parish Priest. He was later replaced by the former vice provincial. I was prepared, step by step over a period of two years, to take charge of the centre and to assume responsibility for this job.

Though I am an African and from abroad, the former vice-provincial, who had been the Parish Priest and the rector of the community, passed the baton on to me. Even more wonderful was that, when I took over these posts, he remained on as my vicar for a year before moving to another community. This was a great witness of his strength and a conversion for myself. It was also a powerful testimony to the parish community and lay collaborators. This single simple act of his was evidence enough of our brotherly love and the trust placed in me.



*P. Christian TshalaWika
Congolese, Missionary in France*



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni SDB, Postulator General for the Causes of Saints

Servant of God, Father Rodolfo Lunkenbein (1939-1976) was killed in the courtyard of the Salesian mission of Meruri (Brazil) on July 15, 1975, for having chosen to dedicate his life to the defense of Bororo Indians. He was killed along with the **Servant of God, Simão Bororo** (1937-1976), who had tried to protect the missionary. The motto that Father Rodolfo had chosen at his priestly ordination was "I came to serve and give life." On his last visit to Germany in 1974, his mother begged him to be careful because they had been informed of the risks that his son was taking. He replied, "Mom, why are you worried? There is nothing more beautiful than dying for God's cause. That would be my dream."

For Salesians in Europe



Salesian Missionary Intention

That Project Europe, a missionary project of the Congregation, may bear abundant fruit.

During his historic pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela (1982) Saint John Paul II said: "I address to you, old Europe, a cry full of love: Return to yourself, be yourself! Rediscover your origins. Relive your roots." Project Europe of the Salesians of Don Bosco is gradually moving ahead on the road of this prophetic and missionary appeal. We pray that this journey may be consolidated and become fruitful, so that the Salesian communities in Europe may be renewed in the joy of the Salesian charism and mutual acceptance of the confreres.

