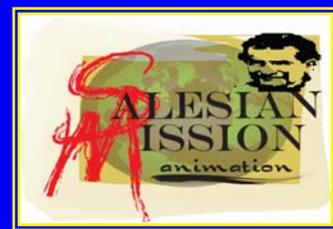


AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSIONS



E- NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSION ANIMATION

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FINDING OUR IMPETUS FOR MISSION

Don Bosco commissioned his first missionaries, destined for Argentina, in a solemn ceremony in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, in Turin, on 11 November 1875. That inaugural missionary expedition was led by Fr John Cagliero (later to become a bishop and a Cardinal). Thus began a story that has spread throughout the world and now sees the Salesians working in over 115 countries.

The story of the departure of the first Salesians for America in 1875 is based on the missionary ideal of Don Bosco. After his ordination, he would have become a missionary had not his director, Joseph Cafasso, opposed the idea. He eagerly read the Italian edition of the Annals of the Propagation of the Faith and used this magazine to illustrate his *Cattolico provveduto* (1853) and his *Month of May* booklets (1858).

When he founded the Salesian Society, the thought of the missions still obsessed him, and he would gladly have sent his religious had he not then completely lacked the means.

It is said that he searched for three years among documents, trying to get information about different countries. For a moment he thought it might be Abyssinia, then Hong Kong, then Australia, then India. One day, however, a request came from the republic of Argentina, which turned him towards the Indians of Patagonia. To his surprise, a study of the people there convinced him that the country and its inhabitants were the ones he had seen in his dream.



He regarded it as a sign of Providence and set about the realization of a project long dear to him. Adopting a special way of evangelization that would not expose his missionaries suddenly to wild, uncivilized tribes, he proposed to set up bases in safe locations where their missionary efforts were to be launched. The above request from Argentina came about as follows: Towards the end of 1874, he received letters from

that country requesting that he accept an Italian parish in Buenos Aires and a school for boys at San Nicolas de los Arroyos. Gazzolo, the Argentinean Consul at Savona, had sent the request, for he had taken a great interest in the Salesian work in Liguria and hoped to obtain the Salesians' help for the benefit of his country. Negotiations started after Archbishop Aneiros of Buenos Aires had indicated that he would be glad to receive the Salesians. They were successful mainly because of the good offices of the priest of San Nicolas, Pedro Ceccarelli, a friend of Gazzolo, who was in touch with and had the confidence of Don Bosco. In a ceremony held on 29 January 1875, Don Bosco was able to

convey the great news to the Oratory in the presence of Gazzolo. On February 5, he announced the fact in a circular letter to all Salesians asking volunteers to apply in writing. He proposed that the first missionary departure start in October.

This news aroused great enthusiasm everywhere, and practically all the Salesians volunteered for the missions. Certainly a new era had now begun for the Oratory and the young Society.

LET US REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS

The month of November is very significant for us Salesians because we remember the first foray of the Salesians in to a foreign land led by Fr. Cagliero on November 11, 1875. Cagliero is best remembered as an intrepid missionary. He led the first group of Salesian missionaries to Argentina, where they carried out their ministry to the Italian immigrants of Buenos Aires. Soon, Fr Cagliero penetrated the interior of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.

Then he opened a trade school at Almagro and another at Villa Colon, Uruguay until his recall to Turin to be made bishop consecrated in the Basilica of Mary, Help of Christians in Turin on December 7, 1884, in the presence of Don Bosco.

This month of November, we remember all mission lands and the boys under the pastoral care of priests and brothers. We remember to pray for the

Salesian Missionaries to be faithful to the teachings of Don Bosco and that they may be given the grace of holy perseverance.

Fr. Ting Miciano, SDB



The Cagliero Project

A Salesian Missionary Initiative

The Cagliero Project gives young Australians like you an opportunity to devote a year of your life in service of the youth overseas and in Australia. This takes place in Salesian communities around the world. As missionaries you will work in solidarity with the community in order to promote the Gospel and the message of Don Bosco and to deepen your own spiritual awareness. In this community, based on your skills and talents, you will work with youth. This usually takes place in projects such as schools, youth centres, oratories and mission centres. Cagliero Missionaries commit themselves to a Salesian spirituality and lifestyle. This is done by participating in your specified Salesian community through living, praying and working in a Salesian way. In determining the type of work you want to do, we will take into account your training, academic standard and

(<http://www.cagliero.org.au/index.htm>)

trade/professional background. Your geographical area of interest will also be taken into consideration. A primary focus of the Cagliero Project will be working with the young people in the community: in a school, youth centre, oratory or mission centre. You will take on a role such as teacher, youth minister, counsellor, social worker, labourer or nurse. You will be given a specific job before going abroad, however, there are a lot of different ministries that go on in a Salesian community and you may be called to undertake other tasks. For example, your primary task may be to teach in a technical school, but the community in which you live may also run a food program for the poor and you may also be called upon to assist the Salesian community with the given program intended for the less fortunate.

SALESIAN MISSIONARY IN FOCUS

Most of us watched 300 ... but we just celebrated 800 (that's Sparta? this is Mongolia!).

Fr. Carlo Maria Savio D. Villegas, SDB

Mother Alan Qo'a had two sons by Dobun-mergen, namely Belguenuetei and Bueguenuetei. After her husband died, Alan Qo'a bore three more sons Buqu-qadagi, Bugatu-salji, Bodonchar-munchqaq. The first two, Belguenuetei and Bueguentei were secretly red with jealous anger of the other three. As a mother, Alan Qo'a knew their thoughts and one day called all 5 sons to her presence. To each she gave a shaft of an arrow. And to each she asked this to be broken into half. The 5 sons readily broke the shaft still wondering what their Mother was up to. Then Mother Alan Qo'a took from a quiver a bundle of 5 arrows which she bundled together and gave to them to break. None of 5 was able to break the bundle of arrows into half. Then Mother Alan Qo'a said, alone you can easily be broken by anyone. Together and of one mind, like a bound arrow-shafts none can easily vanquish you. (19-22. "The Secret History of the Mongols", Prof. Urgunge Transl.)

The title of this article (In Unity, Peace, cfr. (www.carlomariasavio.blogspot.com))

may initially be seen as farfetched with the person of Chinggis Khan (Genghis Khan, Anglicized version) characterized by some historians as one who mercilessly took many lives and literally cut them short. But after a few 14 years of missionary life (7 in Papua New Guinea and 7 in Mongolia), I have been taught more by my mistakes to listen and be left in Wonder (an expression I have learned from a great classmate). More than war, a man loves peace. And Peace is a fruit of communion.

After five years or shall I say in more poetic words as Chinggis would have had it said, *after seven winters* with the people of the *felt-walled tents*, Life has been WONDER-full.

A Life of wonder is something one cannot exchange for all the price tags a sight-seeing tourist-package can offer to see and ride on camels. Lest the readers be misled, Wonder should not be equated with only the scent and the velvety touch of wild roses or be equated with only the thorns. Wonder comes with the fact that the roses come 'packaged' with the thorns. Just as snow is not only a matter of immaculate whites and fluffy flakes but a fact of bringing freezing chills and bone racking shivers.

800 years ago the great divided tribes of the steppes were united into the first Mongol state. Last year, 2006 the people and government of Mongolia celebrated the eighth centennial anniversary of their founding, their great unity – the Mongols.

With God's grace and the intercession of our Heavenly Mother, Help of those who Believe, who has gathered her poor and young children to be sheltered under the homes of Don Bosco would make the Salesians worthy enough to be men steeped in prayer and stooped with undying work for building unity in a person. Therefore contributing to helping the great Mother and Mongolian youth of 1206 and today, fulfill their dreams - to be gathered strong and to be gathered whole as a *family* in communion.

"In the year of the Tiger, the people of the felt-walled tents gathered around the river Onon, the *Tatars*, the *Onggirats*, the *Tayichi'ut*, the *Kereyit*, *Naiman*, *Merkit* and *Jadaran* tribes and various smaller tribes" (202. The Secret History of the Mongols) to form what the world now forever remembers as the Mongol people. In the same gathering of all these chiefs of the tribes, they chose a man, the one who had in fact fought to the point of death, to gather them as one. That day, 1206 the great tribes of the steppes chose *Chinggis* to be their *Khaan*, their King." ...He is now known as the father of The Empire the world has ever seen, extending way beyond than that of the Romans. This is Mongolia!

