

## AN APPEAL FOR NEW MISSIONARIES

ear Confreres, My cordial greetings from Czestochowa, one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, during several days of missionary animation in the Provinces of Poland. I came here to entrust to Mary all the processes outlined in this letter appeal to missionary generosity.

Almost three years ago, the 26<sup>th</sup> GC asked each Province to "foster the missionary spirit, generously place at the Rector Major's disposal Salesian personnel for *missio ad gentes*, and encourage missionary vocations among lay people and families" (n.49). Thank you to all the 43 Provinces who have responded so far to this call of the General Chapter. Vietnam was the most generous with 29 missionaries in the last three years, and we note that in 2010 for the first time the young region of Africa - Madagascar has sent more confreres than it received.

I have asked myself many times: What happens when a particular Church or a Province stops sending more missionaries for the needs of the universal Church? Surely there are some serious consequences: the Church stops growing, looking only inward to its needs leads to a lost of its catholicity, it does not continue on the path of the mission and, in the process, jeopardises the growth of its own faith. Closing oneself to the needs of the universal Church, it also loses the courage to face its own challenges.

In fact, we already find in the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 20:35*) Jesus' saying that "it is more blessed to give than to receive". In Latin America they have discovered that "giving from our poverty" bears much fruit even in the evangelization of the local context. Asia and Africa are convinced that the faith they have received recently, thanks to the missionaries who came from afar, is a gift to be shared. The attitude of some European Provinces is very significant, despite a sharp drop in vocations and the aging of the confreres they generously allow their very few young confreres to go to the missions. This is the sense of the Church (Const. 13), besides the thought of four billion non-Christians, do not leave us in peace!

Celebrating the centenary of the Blessed Michael Rua, we want to learn from him what it means to be loyal to Don Bosco. During the 22 years of his ministry



as Rector Major he had sent as many as 31 missionary expeditions with 1465 missionary confreres to many incipient missions in America, Africa and Asia. In every January issue of the Salesian Bulletin Fr. Rua shared with the Cooperators new developments in our mission and asked their help in the realisation of the daring plans for the year that was about to begin. **Trying to imitate the ways of Fr. Rua I present to you this year the fruits of missionary expedition No. 141 and urgent needs of the Salesian missions today, updated by the Rector Major in July 2010.** 

Every 11th of the month we pray for missionaries and for new missionary vocations, I hope the newsletter missionary animation "Cagliero11" reaches all your communities. In order to help the confreres to discern this missionary vocation within the Salesian vocation here are the **steps of the journey of the candidates to be missionaries** ad gentes:

- 1. Without an updated mission information and training during their initial formation, we cannot expect for the new missionary vocations.
- The whole journey begins with an application addressed to the Rector Major, obviously based on the initial discernment of the confrere. Each candidate makes himself available to the disposition of the Congregation, although he may express its preference or predisposition to a specific concrete mission territory.
- 3. First of all, it is important to have a good discernment of the missionary vocation. After the application made to the Rector Major, the Superior of the candidate is asked to help in the discernment process according to set criteria. Discernment is the key to a good collaboration among the three levels - local, Province and Department of Missions. Above all, the opinion of the Provincial and his council in consultation with the formators is very important.
- 4. After a positive outcome of discernment, the Rector Major assigns the candidate to his **future mission**. A good

knowledge of the person and the applicant's ability helps us a lot to avoid unexpected surprises in the future. This is followed by the **dialogue between the two Provincials involved** to facilitate an adequate preparation and smooth transfer.

5. The **formation course for new missionaries** of the 142th missionary expedition will be held at the Generalate in Rome, and Turin (**1-25 September 2011**). The course aims at helping the new missionaries in responding to their call: its cultural, anthropological, theological and Salesian dimensions. Two weeks are spent in Rome and a week in pilgrimage to the roots of our Charism in order to initiate the journey of on-going formation of every missionary.

To facilitate a proper discernment and preparation of future missionaries I invite you to send me the names of your probable missionary candidates, or send their applications directly to the Rector Major as soon as possible (preferably before January 31, 2011).

in Don Bosco,



delar Fr. Václav Klement, SDB Councillor for the Missions

				Salesian Missi		
Name	Prov.	Destination		Name	Prov.	Destination
ABARCA, Alfonso Patricio	MEG	Peru		LE, Van Trung Peter	VIE	Sudan
ALHPONSE, Patrick	INM	Great Britain		LE, Mac Khai Peter	VIE	Papua New Guinea
BAXA, Vladimir	SLK	Azerbajdian		LIPOWICZ, Wojciech	PLN	Austria
BEREK, Antonio	ITM	Belgium Nord		MICHAEL, Charles	INM	Cambodia
BINU, George	INK	Brazil-Recife		MUSAFIRI KALUTA,	AFC	Brazil-Recife
CASTAGNA, Vittorio	IME	Guatemala		Maximillian Kolbe		
COSTANTINI, Mauro	ICC	Angola		MUTUKU, Steven	AFE	Azerbajdian
CORONEL, Daniel	PER	Ireland		NGUYEN, Huu Tien Peter	VIE	Peru
DEMBELE, Florent	AFO	Turkey		NGUYEN, Francis Xavier	VIE	Pakistan
DINH, John Baptist	VIE	Brazil-Manaus		NGUYEN, Joseph	VIE	Cambodia
DOS SANTOS, Mario Gaspar	ITM	Mongolia		NONGRUM, Simon	ING	Belgium Nord
EKKA, Suresh	ING	Bulgaria		PHAM, Joseph	VIE	Bangladesh
FITWI, Kahassay	AET	Cambodia		POLESZCUK, Damian	PLN	Ireland
GALLEGO, Vázquez José	SLE	Peru		RYNGDONG, Eugene	ING	Uganda
HUYNH, Giuseppe	VIE	Uganda		SHAURI, Pascal	AGL	Papua New Guinea
JEBARUS, Andreas	ITM	Holland		SIMPLICE, Tschoungang	AGL	Austria
JIMÉNEZ, Gabriel	MEM	Middle East		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
KIM, Dae Shik Alexander	KOR	Malawi		TOGO, Augustinus	ITM	Ecuador
KOLLAPALLIYIL, Thankachan	INH	India-Delhi		TRAN, Bosco	VIE	Hong Kong
KUKUCZKA, Robert	PLS	Hungary		TRAN, Tai Hoang Joseph	VIE	Brazil-Manaus
LE, Ho Quoc Dung Peter	VIE	Sudan		VALSECCHI, Marcello	ARN	ARS-Patagonia
-	1			ZENISEK, Pavel	CEP	Bangladesh

Members of the 141<sup>st</sup> Salesian Missionary Expedition

## Czestochowa, November 11, 2010

## Salesian Missionary Intention

## **Salesians of the South Cone Region**

That the Salesians of the South Cone region, returning to the apostolic zeal of Don Bosco and together with the continental mission of the bishops of Latin America, may make courageous choices for the young and poor at risk (GC 26, 105).

We want to pray in a special way for the centres of young apprentices - "CESAM" - in Brazil, "Don Bosco Roga" of Paraguay, the "Programma Don Bosco" in Chile and other social works of Uruguay and Argentina.