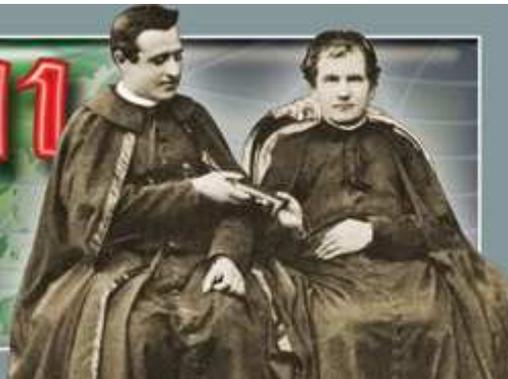


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



THE MISSIONARY DREAMS OF DON BOSCO

Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian missions!

A cordial greeting during the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Contemplating the missionary heart of Don Bosco leads us to rediscover his famous missionary dreams. Our Father has never left Europe, but he dreamt of many young people of all five continents.

I cannot forget the Eucharist during the GC26 presided over by Cardinal Ivan Diaz, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples. In his homily he narrated all the dreams again, concluding with an

exclamation: "Do not forget China!" I cannot forget as well the candid comment of a Provincial after the Mass: "How nice to hear the missionary dreams! I have never heard them before!"

Starting afresh from Don Bosco, let us listen anew to his missionary heart which dreamt day and night that the Gospel may be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

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



Upcoming Events of the Missions Department

JUNE

- ◆ 4-6: Days of Reflection of the Missions Department team (Genzano)
- ◆ 18-20: Days of Reflection of the Departments of Salesian Mission [Youth Ministry, Social Communications, Missions] (Genzano)

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ 1-26: Orientation Course for New Missionaries (Pisana and Colle Don Bosco)
- ◆ 28-30: Second World Advisory Council of the Missions Department (Pisana)

OCTOBER

- ◆ 14-17: Meeting of Don Bosco Network and Salesian NGOs (Rome)

NOVEMBER

- ◆ 4-10: SDB-FMA Study Days: First Proclamation in Europe (Prague, Czech Republic)

MISSIONARIES FOR OCEANIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST SOUGHT

Province - Country	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
MOR - Turkey	Turkish	islamic country, witness of life, great need to rejuvenate the Province-robust vocations
MOR - Arab Countries	Arabic	arab countries, islamic and multicultural context, witness of life, great need to rejuvenate the Province-robust vocations
PNG-SI Delegation - Papua New Guinea	English, Pidgin	very few SDB, after 30 years very few local vocations, educative-technical work
PNG-SI Delegation - Salomon Islands	English, Pidgin	islands in the Pacific, very few SDB, after 10 years very few local vocations, educative-technical work

A LETTER FROM PAKISTAN

I am writing this letter at a time when all of us, seven Salesians working in Pakistan, are gathered with Fr. Provincial to discuss and reflect on the current situation of the country and to discern on how together we can properly and proactively respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

Times are tough on this side of the *Subcontinent*. And with war now going on in Afghanistan compounded by volatile local political situation, insecurity due to terrorist threats, high rates of unemployment and increasing prices of basic commodities-our future could even get tougher. Yet in such a difficult and seemingly discouraging situation, we are sustained by the silent and slow yet steady work of Grace that we encounter each day. We are witnesses to the unfolding of stories of hope-little miracles and successes that Don Bosco is able to achieve through and in the lives of our students and lay collaborators.

Roughly 12 years since Don Bosco's work began in Pakistan, there are now two communities in the country. There is one in Quetta: a school that offers basic formal and non-formal education, skills training, hostel facilities and weekend oratory to around 800 young people from poor families in the area. And we have another technical school and hostel for underprivileged boys in Lahore. And who knows where God will lead us in the coming years.

We journey with the young people of Pakistan and strive to provide them with opportunity to learn and to live and grow together in harmony and mutual respect despite their differences-in religion, in caste and in dialect among others. And as I more and more immerse myself in the mission entrusted to us here, I am also able to better appreciate Don Bosco's approach. Joy, optimism, reason, loving-kindness, music, sports and above all, Jesus' message of compassion, forgiveness and understanding possess an irresistible appeal that penetrate into the heart of the young regardless of the faith they profess, the language they speak or the color of their skin.

I am actually a new-comer in Pakistan. I am still struggling to learn the language, eat and enjoy the local food (which I find quite spicy), adjust to the weather (that goes very cold in winter and terribly hot in summer), understand the native customs and traditions and overcome homesickness and loneliness that come once in a while. Though I am a member of the 139th missionary expedition and was sent in 2008, my entry visa got approved only in August of 2009. The long wait for the visa was already a test in itself. But somehow it prepared me as well to grow a bit more in patience, because truly, one needs plenty of it here.

Since I also come from a predominantly Christian country (96%) I had to change and adjust some of my mindsets and approaches to doing mission and apostolate especially in this place where Christians are a minority. And this I guess, I am still learning up to now. I also get scared from time to time-with all the news of war and bombing, but the presence and support of the confreres in the community give me the assurance that I will never be alone.

Please pray for us then, Salesians in Pakistan, and for all our lay mission partners as well as all the young people God sends us that we may continue to dare, to hope and to see, beyond our daily troubles and trials, the work of Divine Grace, slowly, silently but steadily strengthening us as we forge ahead in caring out the mission entrusted to us

Bro. Carmelo Martinez

Filipino lay brother, missionary in Pakistan



Salesian Missionary Intention

Salesians in South Asia

That the Salesians and the members of the Salesian family in South Asia - especially in Bangladesh – may have the courage to promote and defend the human dignity of the poorest in society and in cultural and political contexts of their countries, as an integral part of their proclamation of the Gospel.

The commitment to evangelisation in the various countries of South Asia, where the Catholic Church lives under the conditions of a small minority, demands much patience and courage in order to live a style open to all non-Christians in the territory, in our schools and in our social works. We are pursuing a style of dialogue with everyone: taking care of basic needs of all people with the hope that someday they may personally encounter Jesus.



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com