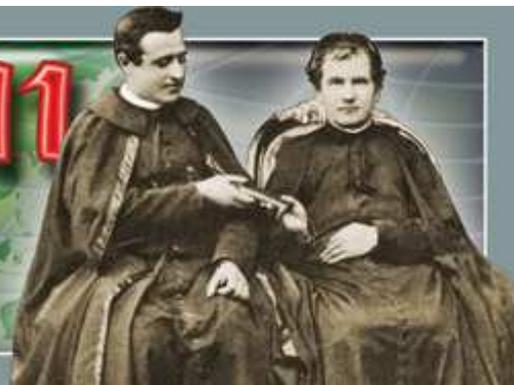


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

A Publication of the Missions Sector for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission



Dear brothers, dear friends,

During the first half of this year 2016, the Rector Major gave me the gift to do on his behalf the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Guwahati, in northeastern India. It is one of the most beautiful missionary stories that we can share as Congregation! Soon, in 2022, we will celebrate the centenary of the arrival of the first sons of Don Bosco in this part of India. I met there the oldest among his missionaries *ad gentes*: Fr. Mario Porcu, originally from Sardinia (Italy), and also an Indian citizen. I could celebrate with him his 98th anniversary of life, of which “only” 77 years as a missionary

in India. As a tradition during these celebrations, they offered to him as a sign of hope different types of colourful scarves. I was next to him. As soon as he received the first, he put it on me and told me: please take this to Our Lady Help of Christians in Valdocco”. And so I'll have to do it with great joy and pride. How nice it is, to find a missionary who is mature years yet feeling totally to be a child of Mary! This is what Don Bosco really needs: missionaries in love with Mary!

J. Basañes
Fr. Guillermo Basañes, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

The Salesian Province of Guwahati mourns the passing away of **Father Porcu Mario** on June 23, 2016 at 1.40 am at Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati. He had a peaceful and serene death surrounded by his confreres” announced Guwahati provincial Fr V.M. Thomas. The Funeral Mass was scheduled to Friday 24th June at 2.00 pm at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral Parish, Guwahati followed by the funeral rites and Burial at Christian Cemetery, Uzan Bazar, Guwahati.

The oldest missionary in northeast India, 98 years old, was born on 21 st May 1918 at Cagliari in Italy. Fr Mario, who spent 75 years in India, was one such “harmless missionary” who became an Indian citizen in 1965, at a time when Indian government was expelling foreign missionaries from the northeastern state of Assam. Fr Mario was then the rector of Don Bosco School in Shillong, a prestigious institution in northeastern India.

A pioneer missionary in the Khasi and Garo Hills of Meghalaya, as well as in the Assam plains and neighboring Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, Fr. Mario was a frontier missionary in several parts of the region known as “seven sisters”.

A pioneer of vocational training in Assam, Fr Mario was present last month (30th May 2016) at the inauguration of a 48-year-old vocational/skill training school in Guwahati which geared up to be an electronic manufacturing hub in the gateway city of northeastern India at Maligaon.

Fr Mario established the pioneer manufacturing institution Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS), Maligaon in 1968 as a non formal technical institute managed by Don Bosco Educational Society Guwahati to impart technical education and skilling of the marginalized and poor rural youth including school drop-outs of Assam and adjoining north eastern states of India. The Institution trained some 3,000 marginalized youth just over the last three years and more than 80% of them have been happily placed.



[ANS 24 June 2016]

HAVE MANY PLANS AND PROGRAMMES, BUT DO NOT CUT OUT JESUS CHRIST!



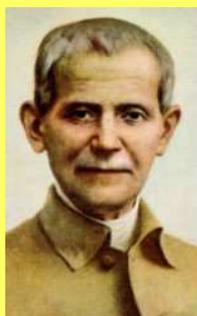
Humanity is in such need of the Gospel, the source of joy, hope and peace. The mission to evangelise takes priority, for missionary activity is still today the Church's greatest challenge. "How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelisation full of fervour, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction!" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 261).

The proclamation of the Gospel is the primary and perpetual concern of the Church; it is her essential task, her greatest challenge and the source of her renewal. Bl. Paul VI added: "it is her vocation". Indeed, from the mission to evangelise, from its intensity and efficacy derives the true renewal of the Church, of her structures and of her pastoral work. Without restlessness and concern for evangelisation, it is impossible to develop a credible and effective pastoral approach, one that unites proclamation and human promotion. "Missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church's activity" (*EG*, 15).

... Yours is a challenging and privileged task: your gaze and your interest extends to the vast and universal horizons of humanity, to its geographical and above all human frontiers... Please, **be careful not to fall into the temptation of becoming an NGO**, an office of distribution of ordinary and extraordinary subsidies. Money does help – we know that! – but it can also become the downfall of the Mission. Functionalism, when it is placed at the centre or when it occupies a large space, as if it were the most important thing, will lead you to ruin; for the first way to die is to take for granted the "source", that is the One who moves the Mission. Please, with so many plans and programmes **do not cut Jesus Christ** out of your missionary work, which is his work. A Church that is reduced to the 'efficiency-ism' of the party machine is already dead, even if her structures and programmes run by the clergy and "independent" laity live on for centuries.

A true evangelisation is not possible if not in the sanctifying power of the **Holy Spirit**, the only One capable of renewing, stirring, impelling the Church to go forth boldly to evangelise all peoples (*EG*, n. 261). May the Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelisation, obtain for us always a passion for the Kingdom of God, so that the joy of the Gospel may reach the ends of the earth, and no periphery be deprived of its light. I bless you affectionately. And, please, do not forget to pray for me.

[An excerpt from the address of Pope Francis to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies on June 5, 2016. This is reported here because it highlights important points that also involve Salesian missionary animation.]



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

We recall **Venerable Simon Srugi** (1877-1943), Salesian brother, on whose grave it is written: "Fellow Citizen of Christ, He saw him everywhere. He gave himself for everyone and in everything to imitate Him, meek and humble figure of the Good Samaritan". In his notebook we read: "The works of the religious, no matter how small and simple they may be, are valuable and acceptable to God when they are done to please him." And again: "To love God means not giving him the slightest displeasure neither with thoughts, nor with words, nor with actions, but truly love this God of mine who has loved me so much."



Salesian Missionary Intention

That our schools and universities in Latin America and the Caribbean become more and more means for the spreading of the Gospel.

The huge population of our Salesian schools and universities in Latin America and the Caribbean are a unique opportunity to facilitate the encounter of every young person with the Risen Lord Jesus. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to assist and enlighten our community of consecrated persons, that as the animating nucleus of the educational - pastoral service they may find and consolidate the most appropriate and fruitful ways and strategies for the effective proclamation of Jesus Christ to our young people in our schools and universities.

