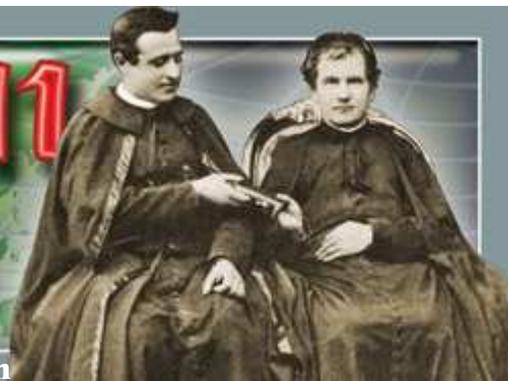


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian Missions!

Don Bosco missionary: a whole life lived in Europe, with a few trips outside Italy, but a heart decidedly open to the missionary ideals. In April 2011 we remember 125 years since the last missionary dream of Don Bosco, the 5th dream in Barcelona, an unfinished Salesian prophecy. When I visited Africa during the month of February, from Ethiopia, Gambella to Lagos in Nigeria, I dreamt that many Salesians in those places will bring the Gospel to many young people who do not know yet Jesus. Each of us can lend a hand to make the dreams of Don Bosco a reality.

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



The 16th On-Going Formation Course for Missionaries

The On-going Formation Course for Missionaries in the Faculty of Theology at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome, sponsored by the SDB Missions Department, will take place from **September 19 to December 8, 2011**.

The course is open to missionaries with mission experience. It offers an itinerary of spiritual growth, of deeper reflection on missionary activities through a series of initiatives that include classes (Monday to Friday from 8.45 to 13.00), personal reflections and sharing, prayer experiences, and meetings with groups and associations.

The second week of the course (Sept 26 - Oct 1), has a residential character which is at the same time fraternal and reflective, focusing on missionary spirituality. The last week of the course (2-8 December) is a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land to deepen biblical and Christological themes. Other visits - pilgrimages are also organised during the course.

An international group of professors of the UPS and other centres offer their services and are also open for dialogue and evaluation. The Course Director is Fr. Antonio Escudero, SDB.

The course is in Italian so the **Italian language course** at the Institute Dante Alighieri of Rome from July 1 to September 16 is **obligatory** for Salesian participants who do not have the command of Italian. During the language course Salesian missionaries will reside in the Salesian community of Testaccio.

The contact person for Salesian participants is Fr. Placide Carava, SDB of the Missions Department. Salesians who wish to participate in the course should send the application to him. Fr. Václav Klement, General Councilor for the Missions, in dialogue with the Provincial of the applicant, will confirm the acceptance of the application of the missionary confrere. During the on-going formation course the missionary confreres will reside in the communities of the UPS with other Salesian students.

Happy Easter to all Readers of Cagliero 11 !

MISSIONARIES SOUGHT FOR AMERICA

Country - Province	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
Cuba - ANT	Spanish	few confreres, communist regime, Parishes - youth centres
Argentina Patagonia- ARS	Spanish	First Salesian mission, few pastors, rural mission and indigenous groups
Brazil, Amazon - BMA	Portuguese, local languages	Missionary work among indigenous groups, amazon forest climate
Brazil, North east - BRE	Portuguese	Need of confreres in the poorest area of Brazil
Guatemala, Vicariate of El Petén - CAM	Spanish, local languages	Missionary work among indigenous groups, Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, a bishop and one SDB; Missionary work in Alta Verapaz and surrounding areas (San Pedro de Carcha)
Ecuador, Vicariate of Mendez - ECU	Spanish, local languages	Vicariate entrusted to the DB 1893, Ashuar-Shuar; mission among the Kechua in the Andean zone (Cordilleras)
Mexico, Mixes Prelature - MEM	Spanish, local languages	Prelature entrusted to the Congregation 1964, few personnel and advanced in age, ministry among diverse indigenous groups
Paraguay, Vicariate of Chaco - PAR	Spanish, Guarani	Vicariate of Chaco, few SDB (advanced age), mission in the process of re-foundation
Peru, Vicariate of Pucallpa - PER	Spanish, local languages	Amazon missions - Vicariate entrusted to the SDB, few confreres, diverse indigenous group; missions-Valle Sagrado (Kechua); missions in Yurimaguas (San Lorenzo)
Uruguay - URU	Spanish	The most secularised country of Latin America, evangelisation of the young
Venezuela, Amazon Vicariate - VEN	Spanish, local languages	Amazon mission - Vicariate of Puerto Ayacucho entrusted to the SDB, few confreres, Alto Orinoco - Yanomami and other indigenous groups

I would like to share the Charism we have received from Salesian Missionaries



When a person discovers that I am a Venezuelan and I am a missionary in the Middle East he or she easily expresses the opinion that it is neither fair nor wise for me to leave Venezuela where there is lot of need, and still learn another difficult language like Arabic as well as a culture very different from mine when I could serve more "effectively" in my own country instead of another new missionary, who will perhaps take over what I left behind, and struggle to learn Spanish and adapt to our culture. So why do I want to be a missionary? Because after an honest and serious discernment I am convinced that God calls me to be a missionary as a living part of the Church of Communion. Although it is true that the Church and the Province of Venezuela have so many needs, it is equally true that we can share from our poverty. On

one hand, with a Venezuelan Salesian missionary the Middle East Province is enriched with another expression of being Salesian. On the other hand, the Province of Venezuela, my family, my friends have won many grateful hearts for a gift of a missionary. I myself have discovered the spiritual, formative, charismatic, and cultural opportunities which I have never imagined even in my wildest dreams. The Lord had promised to give one hundred fold, but I have experienced that his measure is even more generous.

At the beginning of my missionary life, as a practical trainee in the Middle East, the biggest challenge was learning Arabic, which was very, very, very difficult. I became a child and I felt useless. But I had a great desire to communicate, so in addition to devoting myself wholly to study, I used all strategies to establish relationships: mimicry, smile, drawing, speaking poorly, speaking in a confused way, and finally, to be present and interact with a new culture in the community, in the oratory ...

I participated in the Orientation Course for New Missionaries organised by the Missions Department in Rome only after my practical training and theological studies but it has been useful for me because I had the chance to explore the anthropological, charismatic and ecclesial dynamics of my missionary option. It also helped me to re-evaluate my own experiences, to become aware of the elements of which I will have to be careful in the future, and it gave me an "input" to help me grow deeper in my love for the mission entrusted to me by the Lord.

It is obvious that the missionary life in the Middle East is pretty tough but my greatest joy is to be in contact with the young who are poor, needy, marvelous, demanding, but thirsty for God, friendship, to be listened to. They are stupendous young people! Then the confreres ... we come from different cultures. Without taking away anything from the obvious difficulty that integration in such diversity requires, the interaction and fellowship that is created is actually very rewarding for all. We become a witness to the universality of Christianity, of the Church and of the Salesian charism. I feel truly at home here, especially among the group of confreres in initial formation.

Now as a young priest I am studying to obtain my licentiate at the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome to prepare myself better in view of my return to the Middle East with my original contribution to the mission of the Province community. I hope I can help young people find God in the Middle East as they have helped me to discover His presence in their midst. Of course the numerous difficulties are obvious, but the plan of God, and the final victory is assured even if now we do not know *when* and *how*.

To the Salesians who are discerning their missionary vocation I would like to share two words: *gratitude* and *trust*. Our vocation is a gift from God, but it is also the result of the generosity of many Salesians before us who have left everything to live in our countries and share with us the Salesian spirit! If today we are Salesians it is because Don Bosco left Castelnuovo to go to Turin; it is because so many Salesians have left Turin to go all parts of Italy; it is because so many Salesians have left Italy, Europe, their country to share the Salesian charism with the whole world. So why can I not make my little contribution out of **gratitude** for what I have received so much for free?

God knows us more than we know ourselves, God loves us more than we love ourselves. I think the wisest thing we can do with our lives is to **entrust** it with confidence into His hands. Whoever hears the call of God to be a missionary ... let him pray and do what is necessary to discern... but never doubt the "power of the cross", nor ever doubt the "beauty of God's plan"!

Fr. Alejandro José Leon Mendoza
Venezuelan, missionary in the Middle East

Interamerica: volunteer lay missionaries and missionary vocations *ad gentes*



Salesian Missionary Intention

That Salesian Missionary Volunteer Service, well developed especially in Ecuador, may inspire many consecrated and missionary vocations in all Provinces of America.

We celebrate the Salesian Mission Day in 2011 with the theme: "Go and preach the Gospel throughout the world." The best experiences of Salesian Missionary Volunteer Service are in the countries of the American continent, which have matured over the last 40 years. The missionary groups, from the missionary childhood society to the missionary efforts of the long term young adult missionary volunteer service, are presented through the video of the Salesian Mission Day 2011 (Ecuador, Brazil, Mexico - U.S. West).



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com