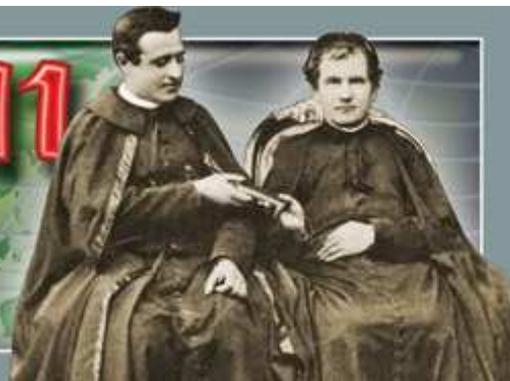


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



THE YOUNG CHURCHES SHOW US THE WAY

Dear missionaries Salesian confreres, friends of the Salesian mission!

A cordial greeting during the Easter season, a missionary season *par excellence*. We are journeying towards Pentecost, the day of the Holy Spirit. The Paraclete who descended on the disciples gathered with Mary enabled them to be witnesses of the Risen Christ despite their fear. Visiting confreres from young Churches, I often ask myself: Where does their missionary enthusiasm in sharing their faith come from? Just baptized yesterday and today they already share the faith, even as missionaries *ad gentes*! There are countries like Taiwan, Mongolia Thailand, Cambodia, Laos where the Christian community is just 0.5% of the total population, yet, these small communities already go beyond the walls of the parish or school to share their faith as the most precious gift. Sometimes we joke that in

countries where there are fewer Catholics, there seems to be more vocations and even more missionaries while in countries with ancient Christian tradition and more Catholics there are fewer vocations!

I invite you these days to look for any news about the young Churches where faith in the Risen Lord is still very fresh. Let us be inspired by the story of Pentecost, which happens even in the 21st century! Certainly the Catholic Church needs more mutual exchange between Churches of ancient tradition and the young Churches.

To bring the Gospel to young people, the first challenge lies in our hearts - we lack courage! Let us be enlightened by the attitudes of the disciples filled with fear, but gathered in prayer, awaiting the Holy Spirit!

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



MISSIONARIES FOR ASIA SOUGHT

Province - Country	Required languages	Features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
CIN – Chinese services	Chinese, English	help the province with young confreres (Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan) especially lay brothers. Necessity of robust vocations
FIS – Pakistan	English, Urdu	very few SDB, difficult islamic context, technical education, need of lay brothers
INC – Bangladesh	English, Bangla	Islamic country, Salesian presence started in 2009
SLK – Azerbaijan	English or Russian, Azerbaijani	around 400 Catholics, moderate Islam, request to internationalise the communities, non-Slovak confreres
THA – Laos	English, Lao	technical training centre managed by lay people, SDB: lay brother to start a religious presence, communist regime
VIE – Mongolia	English or Russian, Mongol	few SDB, first evangelisation, need of a technician for the technical training centre, severe climate (temperature reaches below zero)

A LETTER FROM LAOS

Greetings from Vientiane – Laos
I am a past pupil of the missionary aspirantate Cardinal G. Cagliero



where I studied for four years, and then, I applied to be a Missionary and, in 1958, I was sent to Thailand, where I worked in different fields, especially in school and in houses of formation.

In 1989 I was involved in a special work for refugees from Cambodia and Laos. Then in 1991, we started the first technical school in the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, for the poor local youth.

In 1994 we were invited to start a technical school for poor local youth in Laos. We tried our best but we faced many difficulties.

Finally, in 2004, we tried a second project in the capital of Laos, Vientiane. Since the beginning, we knew that it would be very difficult, because Laos is a communist country. So we started on May 24, to ask the protection of our Lady. We were helped by first five Laotian past pupils and a teacher, who is also a Salesian cooperator.

With the help of our Lady and Don Bosco, we have overcome many difficulties and now *Don Bosco Center* continues to help poor youth who come from many provinces of Laos. We give them a good salesian education and teach them a trade to help them to gain their living honestly as well as help their family and their local society.

Fr. Tito Pedro

Italian missionary, In-Charge of the Salesian work in Laos



Catholics in Laos are about 42,000, in a population of 5.4 million inhabitants, the vast majority of whom are Buddhists. The Church enjoys relative freedom for some years now. Currently, there are four existing Apostolic Vicariates in the country.

In 1994 the Ambassador of Laos to Thailand, attended the opening of the Salesian Technical School in Phnom Penh (Cambodia). After a few weeks he asked the Apostolic Nuncio's help in order to establish a similar technical school in Laos. The Nuncio forwarded this request to the Salesians of Thailand. Visits and contacts with representatives of the Laotian government immediately began but no decision was taken by the government. In the meantime in 1994 a sister in Laos requested scholarships for five young Laotian Catholics who wanted to attend the technical course in the Salesian school in Thailand. They obtained their technical diploma in March 2004. The following May 24, Fr. Pedron, the teacher Mr. Sanya and the five Laotian, now, past pupils arrived in Vientiane the capital of Laos. It was decided to start our work as a legally recognised organisation whose members were our five Laotian past pupils with financial support and supervision of the Salesians. The organisation was named *Mitra Samphan* (friendly relations) which is our motto as well as our method in our relations with others. The number of apprentices began to grow. There had been also several visits by government officials who wanted to know and see what we were doing as well as the scope of *Mitra Samphan*. After many difficulties, including a brief closure, in 2007 the government finally gave the certificate of recognition of our Technical Centre.

In May 2007 A delegation of representatives of various Laotian ministries visited the Don Bosco Technical Schools in Phnom Penh and in Bangkok (Thailand), to see the educational method as well as the administrative and management system of the Salesian schools. In 2008, with help from the authorities of the Association of Young Communists, the government gave the required permission to purchase a piece of land for the new campus since *Mitra Samphan* was no longer sufficient. In 2009 *Don Bosco Center Laos* was inaugurated in this new site.



Asia Welcomes and Sends Missionaries!

«Today, in most of our Asian lands the need continues for missionaries who come in service from other local churches. We welcome them from other countries into ours, asking only that they make themselves truly part of the local Church and truly one with the people. More and more, we trust, our own local churches can send some of our best sons and daughters to serve our sister churches, in Asia and other continents as well».

Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences



Salesian Missionary Intention

Salesians in South and East Asia

That the Salesians in South and East Asian countries may live each day their witness of faith and loyalty 'to the Church with courage and perseverance especially in the educational and social works.

In the Asian continent, where the Church is 'a small minority, the works of formal education (schools, vocational training centres) and social works (street children, orphanages, youth at risk, works for people with HIV) offer the best opportunity to stay in touch with thousands of young non-Christians. The prayer intentions are directed mainly towards India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, Vietnam - so that 'the Salesians may take this opportunity to share their faith through the witness and dialogue of life.



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com