

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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



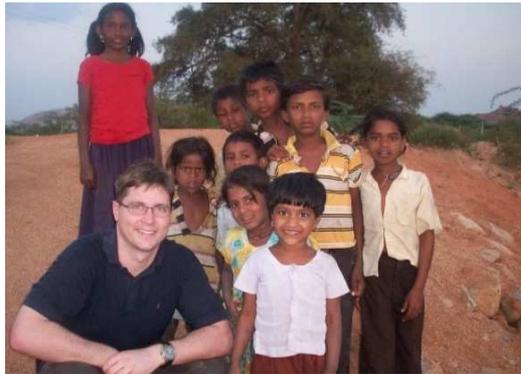
Dear brothers,
dear friends,

The Holy Door of Mercy is already open. At its opening, during the homily on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis spoke of a "missionary journey" and also of "missionary impulse". It is rightly for this reason that the Holy Door opens: to let the people of God be reborn by growing in holiness, and becoming more missionary. At the same time, the Rector Major, enflames our hearts exhorting us with the Strenna this year to launch into the adventure in the Spirit. And the Spirit cannot do so unless He Himself guides us in the adventure which is close to his own heart: the evangelisation of all peoples. Thus, this adventure cannot be but a missionary adventure.

The Holy Door and the Strenna 2016: wonderful opportunities to let God make all things new. I wish, therefore, a fruitful year!

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

THE SALESIAN MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE



The missionary fire lighted by Don Bosco in the Oratory, continues today in Salesian houses when great ideals to be realised in their lives are offered to the young people; when the opportunity to direct their generosity to the fascinating projects of solidarity and mission are offered to the young people. This is the soul of the volunteer service.

In recent years, particularly after the GC24, the Salesian Society reflected on the great pastoral, educational, vocational and missionary opportunity offered by the volunteer service. Therefore the Sectors for Youth Ministry and for Missions are promoting in the Provinces the development of this great gift for the young, for the Congregation and for the transformation of the world.

There are different kinds of volunteer service in civil society and also in the Salesian mission: some are more focused on the education of those who do it or the more mature commitment; others stress more the social or the missionary dimension. There are different types of volunteer service. Some lasts for a short time but with systematic interventions and with very intense experiences, others on long term basis. One can also do voluntary service in one's own country or in other countries.

The volunteer service according to the Salesian spirit, without taking away the value of its other forms, is the **Salesian Missionary Volunteer Service** :

- ◆ *Volunteer service*: this is not to be confused with cooperation or other educational and humanitarian agents, which are also important for the mission. The volunteer service is done *freely*, as an *act of solidarity* and *gratuitously* with a lay and professional dimension which requires competence and preparation;
- ◆ *Missionary*: this does not mean that it focuses only on the explicit proclamation of the Gospel or on direct pastoral work, which is vital and important when it is possible. The term expresses its motivations and the witness of life. The volunteer, animated by his Christian faith, participates in the process of evangelisation through his professional services. In fact it is a valid journey of growth in youthful holiness ;
- ◆ *Salesian*: it is a charismatic feature of our volunteer service: the closeness to world of youth, to education; and all animated by an oratorian heart and the family spirit which enables one to be part of an educational community, in an educative-pastoral project .

The richness of the volunteer service in the Salesian mission, regenerates pastoral ministry, stirring up new enthusiasm and new horizons. In fact it is a privileged means for growth, for integral formation and for the fulfilment of the personal project of life and for the discovery of one's vocation. Indeed, the *Salesian Missionary Volunteer Service* is a valuable and practical help for the Salesian mission and a valid proposal for the education in the faith of young people.

Fr. Martín Lasarte SDB
Missions Sector

Missionary among migrants in the “Land of the long white cloud”



New Zealand, which the Maoris, the original inhabitants, called *Aotearoa*, or “land of the long white cloud” is also home to many migrants. The Salesians arrived here in 2009. In 2010 the parish of St. Paul at Massey was entrusted to us and in 2013 also the parish of the Immaculate Conception in Avondale. Four Salesians work in these two parishes forming one community.

The majority of our parishioners are the Samoans, Tongans, Indians, Burmese, Filipinos and Africans besides the Europeans along with those born and brought up in New Zealand. These migrants bring with them their strong faith and Catholic traditions and values which they try to live in a new country and culture. Some are refugees and had to go through so much of pain and suffering to reach New Zealand. Yet, they have a great desire to share their faith.

Our parishes are enriched and are sustained by the rich faith that the migrants bring along with them from their homeland. We Salesians encourage them to cherish their traditions, foster their growth in their faith and share it with the wider community.

Each ethnic group is encouraged to organise Catechism classes for their children. It helps them to learn and grow in faith as a community, remain close to their friends, and retain their identity as growing up adults in a new environment.

The preparation of children for the sacraments of initiation is a vital service that we offer in our parishes. While the children have their class, their parents are also instructed in faith. This has helped parents, young families, rediscover their faith and their membership in the Church. Some come forward to have their civil marriage validated in the Church. It is a wonderful experience to journey with people in their faith journey which is so rich and open to the plan of God.

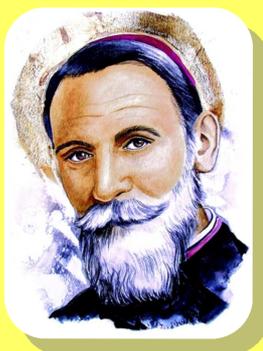
Our parishes foster initial proclamation in different ways. The *Catholic Enquiry Evenings* are excellent avenue to reach out to those who do not know Jesus. We also actively encourage parishioners to share their faith to all. We have stories of parishioners who begin a conversation around life and faith after an initial exchange of greetings in places like the café. This welcoming, inviting approach from a happy person who has experienced the Risen Lord in his/her life is a very powerful way of stirring up interest in others to know Jesus Christ!

Fr. Matthew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil
Indian, missionary in New Zealand



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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



Saint Luigi Versiglia (1873-1930), founder of the Salesian presence in China and Salesian protomartyr, in his last letter to the superior of the Carmelite nuns in Florence, a few weeks before his death, he writes: “...let us lift up our hearts, let us forget ourselves more and let us talk more about God, about the way to serve Him better, about how to console Him more, about the need and the way to win souls for Him. You, Sisters, can talk to us more easily on the subtleties of the love of Jesus, perhaps we can talk to you about the misery of so many souls, who live far from God and of the need to lead them to Him; we feel lifted up to love God, you will feel more the drive for zeal”.



Salesian Missionary Intention

That divisions between the various Christian denominations in South Asia may end so that the sole face of Christ may be revealed to the people.

Since Christian presence in this region is but a small minority, the prophecy of ecumenism is urgent, that is, the prophecy of fraternity among those who follow Christ and his Gospel. Young people are particularly attentive and sensitive to this witness of communion and unconditional mutual forgiveness among those who follow Jesus. This will also foster the creation of a true friendship between people and institutions belonging to various religions.

