

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



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

We continue to accompany with affectionate prayer the confreres of the next Missionary Expedition, the 148th. At Valdocco, everything is being prepared to welcome them and to send them forth. A very interesting fact about this Expedition is that two Provinces, one in Europe and one in Africa, do two things at the same time - offer and receive *ad gentes* missionaries. The Spanish Province of Mary Help of Christians SMX sends a priest from Catalonia, and the same Province receives two non-Europeans who are in their regency. In Africa, a new Visitatoria is born: Africa Congo-Congo ACC (Kinshasa-Brazzaville). This new Visitatoria is born while giving birth to two missionaries, both doing their regency - one goes to Spain and the other to the Antilles; and receives two Vietnamese trainees - a cleric and a Salesian Brother.



"Mission is no longer just a one-way movement towards 'mission lands'," says the updated Salesian Missionary Manual. "This is, instead, a multidirectional movement. Each local church, therefore, sends and receives at the same time. Likewise, every Salesian Province, rich or poor in staff or resources, is co-responsible in the missionary initiatives of the entire Salesian Society. All Provinces therefore send and receive!"

J. Basanes
D. Guillermo Basanes SDB
 Consigliere per le missioni

MISSIONARY ANIMATION IN THE CHURCH. "Faith is strengthened by passing it on!" Thus, missionary animation aims to educate and inform the people of God to keep alive in every Christian the passion to make Jesus known and to preach the Gospel, promoting missionary vocations and eliciting cooperation in evangelization. Effective missionary animation promotes a gradual deepening of one's own love for Jesus and his people. This is the "sweet and comforting joy of evangelizing" that "fills the life of the community of disciples" which releases the energy "to serve Christ in oppressive situations of human suffering, to place oneself at the service of humanity, without withdrawing into one's own welfare."

SALESIAN MISSIONARY ANIMATION. In the light of Don Bosco's charismatic experience, we can now define our objective for Salesian missionary animation. It is not limited to celebrations, or occasional initiatives. It is rather a continuous process of "raising awareness and animating the provincial and local communities, with a view to a deeper missionary awareness, a service renewed in content and methodology, and a renewed commitment that, to be credible, must be exercised simultaneously both inside and outside the community." This process is made concrete in the provincial project of missionary animation.

FIRST OBJECTIVE: Missionary animation has a dual purpose, interdependent and mutually complementary. It aims above all to keep missionary zeal alive in every Salesian and in the educative and pastoral community and to promote missionary culture. This implies an organic missionary ministry, so that missionary animation is an option within the totality of youth ministry making all the dimensions of the Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan fruitful, and the various pastoral areas or sectors of the mission. It also interacts with the initial and ongoing formation of Salesians and involves members of the Salesian Family according to their particular charism.

THE SECOND OBJECTIVE: Missionary zeal is the spark that triggers in every Salesian an "openness to a permanent conversion" and to discerning the call of the Lord to be a missionary. Therefore, the second objective of Salesian missionary animation stems from the primary objective: to help Salesians to discern the missionary vocation *ad exteros, ad gentes, ad vitam*.



MISSIONARY ANIMATION IN THE CHURCH.

“YOU MUST PROPHECY AGAIN CONCERNING MANY PEOPLES AND NATIONS AND TONGUES AND KINGS”.

I remember being struck by a Bible verse (Rev 10:11) long before I realized I had a religious vocation. This verse, which in its literal sense sounds missionary, kept coming back to me repeatedly as I opened the Bible several times to read from it at random. I never understood it but it took root in my heart and I never forgot it.

As a youngster I loved watching movies. When I joined the Salesians, to my bad luck, the video library in my aspirantate was full of videos from ANS, mostly on the missions. I watched them, not because I was eager to, but because it was the only option. To my surprise, they began to interest me so much that I made it a point to watch at least two every week. A more explicit invitation came from our then regional, Fr, Basañes, when he visited the prenovitiate. That day, for the first time, I felt strongly that I might be called to be a missionary.

Ours being a young province, many asked me, “Why become a missionary while you still need missionaries in Tanzania?” My conviction is that I didn’t call myself to be a religious nor a missionary. He who called me knows why He did it and what plans He has for me and for the mission ahead of me. This is not my mission and, therefore, He will provide as per His plans. If He sent me to Mexico it is because He wants me to be in Mexico and, certainly, He will find whoever He needs for Tanzania.

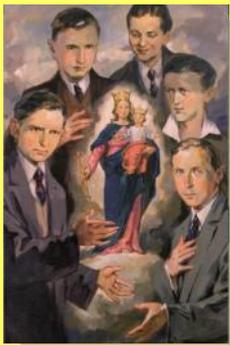
My greatest joy as a missionary in Mexico is the atmosphere of warm welcome I experience in the province and from the people at large. As a practical trainee, I work in a place where children and young people form the majority of the population. Hence, I feel completely immersed in the Salesian mission.

My greatest challenge is the culture, which I find to be very different from that of my home country. The values that I live by and held dear are being confronted, and the readjustment is not that easy. We are in a zone afflicted by violence born of drugs in the streets, broken families, early marriage and young people who are addicted and without a vision. Many of the youth I deal with are influenced by these, which is normal because they are products of this ambience.

To young Salesians who may be thinking of being missionaries I would say, discernment is very important. If you have an opportunity to visit mission areas, please do so before you take your final decision. Take very seriously the human formation given in the formation houses. We need that to interact easily with new cultures. Above all, personal prayer is indispensable for a robust soul.

CI David Komba

Tanzanian, missionary in Mexico



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

The Blessed young martyrs of the Salesian Oratory of Poznan (Poland). They wrote as follows to their family members about their martyrdom on August 24, 1942: “My Beloved Parents, Brothers and Sisters!” begins the letter of Franciszek Kęsy. “It is time to leave you; and it is on August 24, the day of Mary Help of Christians. (...) Good God takes me to Himself. Do not weep though I leave this world at such a young age. I am in the state of grace right now, and I do not know whether later I would be faithful to my promises. (...) I go to heaven; goodbye. There in heaven I will pray to God for you ... Pray sometimes for me, too. (...) I go now.”

“Beloved Parents! Mamma, Babbo, Mary, Henryk!” Edward Klinik addresses his relatives. “Wonderful are the plans of God, and we accept them, because everything is for the good of our soul. (...) Maria has been a mother to me right to the last moment. Now, when you, Mamma, you will not have me any more, take Jesus. (...) My dear ones, do not despair for me and do not weep because I am already with Jesus and Mary ...”

For Salesians in Oceania



Salesian Missionary Intention

That they may share with the young the beauty of their vocation.

May the Salesians in Oceania know how to express and share their faith through art, music, theatre and storytelling with an oratorian spirit. We find a very varied mosaic of cultures in each of the countries in Oceania where the sons of Don Bosco are present. Young people in each of these contexts must grow in their ability to know, love and develop all that is good and beautiful which is in the bosom of their communities.

