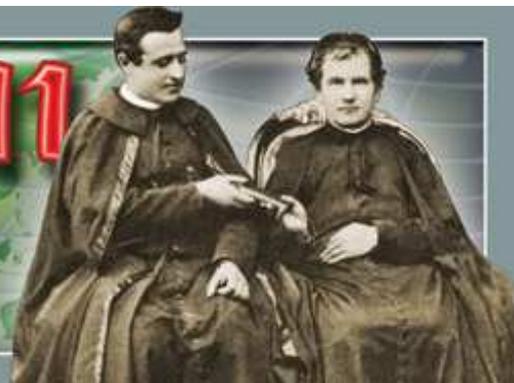


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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



THE RECTOR MAJOR AWAITS APPLICATIONS TO BE MISSIONARIES



Right now I renew my invitation to those who feel themselves called to the *'missio ad gentes et ad vitam'* to accept the call so that we may carry out at a suitable time the appropriate discernment. I have received letters from confreres, usually young ones, who have told me that it was their desire to be missionaries but that their superior (sometimes the Rector, sometimes the Provincial) discouraged them or simply forbade them or did not give them permission.

Looking with the heart of Don Bosco, I think that I can say that **no one should put obstacles in the way of these vocational calls that the Lord makes, and that difficulties at a local or provincial level should not impact on these generous desires.** Let us never forget, my Brothers, that the Lord is much more generous than we can be.

Finally I should like to add that I believe the times are ripe and the needs of the mission advise it, so that in a coordinated manner and with the knowledge of the Rector Major through the Regional Councillor and the Councillor for the Missions, we can offer the help of the confreres of those Provinces that have more vocations, on a temporary basis for a fixed period of time, to other places and Provinces of the Congregation.

My dear Provincials, be generous. Don Bosco was to an exceptional extent!

Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime SDB
ACG 421



"Are you ready?"

The Bicentennial year is already over. Maybe you forgot, dear (young) confrere, to give Don Bosco the best gift: your missionary availability *ad gentes, to exteros, ad vitam!* Who knows if the coming Christmas holidays would be a good opportunity to finally write to the Successor of Don Bosco telling him: **"Here I am!"**. I pray for you! Pray for me!

"When, as a result of the discernment, the candidate comes to the conclusion that he is called to serve in the mission field, he sends a letter to the Rector Major in which explicitly manifests his wish and puts himself at the disposition of the Congregation. This does not remove the opportunity to specify his preferences or concrete predispositions for a determined mission territory, this applies in particular to Project Europe (...).

Having successfully completed the discernment and having obtained the opinion of the Provincial to release the confrere for the missions, the Rector Major assigns the candidate his destination".

[The Missionary Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Rome 2013]



G. Basañes
Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions



**Christ our Peace
give peace to our world
suffering from violence!
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**



CRITERIA FOR DISCERNMENT OF THE SALESIAN MISSIONARY VOCATION "AD GENTES, AD EXTEROS, AD VITAM"

General Criteria for Vocational Discernment - for the confrere and for the Rector and his Council

Three essential aspects : (1) **right intention**, (2) **free decision**, (3) **necessary qualities**.

The necessary qualities are:

- ◆ **Good health**;
- ◆ **Human maturity**; sense of responsibility; relational capacity ;
- ◆ **personalità robusta** Robust personality; **psychological balance**; perseverance in difficulties ;
- ◆ **Patience**, understanding, humility, **capacity to appreciate authentic values in other cultures and religions** and to adapt oneself in changing situations ;
- ◆ **Supernatural spirit**, so as not to reduce mission to something merely philanthropic or social activity ;
- ◆ **Spirit of faith**; rootedness in Christ through personal and community prayer life, centred on the Eucharist, regularity in the reception of the sacraments ;
- ◆ Salesian life lived with **missionary zeal** shown by his **ardour in making Jesus known**, especially to poor and marginalised youth ;
- ◆ **Profound love for the Church and the Congregation** ;
- ◆ **Spirit of sacrifice**; generosity; being contentment with the conditions in he finds himself ;
- ◆ **Fortitude** in enduring fatigue and fruitlessness of one's own effort ;
- ◆ **Flexibility** and **ability to adapt oneself** and to love life in an intercultural community ;
- ◆ **Capacity to learn a new language**;
- ◆ **Capacity to live in community** and to **work as a team** with the members of the community, lay mission partners, the young ;
- ◆ **Communion with and obedience** to the local bishop in overall pastoral activity.



Counter indications of the missionary vocation

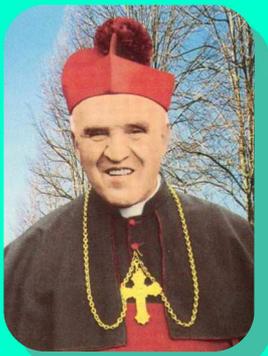
- ◆ The **search for adventure** and simple desire to change the place where one works;
- ◆ **Urged on by a third person**: parents, confreres, friends;
- ◆ **Escape from one's own** relational, personal, vocational **problems**;
- ◆ **Inability to integrate into the life and apostolate of the community**. If such a confrere is sent to the missions, he will be exposed to a more demanding environment (due to language, culture, and other factors) and will only worsen, rather than improve, his situation.

[The Missionary Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco, p 27-29]



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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



At the battle front, the **Servant of God Msgr. Stephen Ferrando** (1885-1978), missionary in India, bishop and founder of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, writes to his Provincial: "Its just a few minutes to midnight, before Christmas! I kept watch; how can you sleep tonight? ... Soon Jesus will be born. He could have been born in a palace on a throne, yet he preferred the crib of Bethlehem. He will not disdain, therefore, even this poor tent. What shall I say to the child? He will see everything and in the midst of endless miseries he will find at least a sincere heart, wishing never to abandon him. I will ask him to give me the strength to win the latest struggles and battles".



Salesian Missionary Intention

For the consolidation of the Family Ministry in the Mediterranean Region

That Salesians strengthen family ministry in close collaboration with youth ministry.

Today "The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children" (Evangelii Gaudium 66). The family, the heart and cradle of all life, must be in our prayers because it is increasingly within our pastoral initiatives.

