

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian missions!

A cordial greeting during the month of missions and of the Holy Rosary!

On the occasion of the 142nd missionary expedition 74 missionaries of the Salesian Family departed from Valdocco. It is a small number that becomes a great sign of the missionary character of all. We know that the missionary vocation expresses our faith in Jesus Christ. I share the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta written 16 years ago to a young Salesian lay brother: "I'm sure that it is the love of God, that pushes you to spread His Word to all nations. He himself will make your missionary vocation bear fruit. But never forget: your first vocation is to belong to Jesus! No matter where you are, what work you do. You render the best service to the Lord when you do your best to belong to Jesus!" We welcome into our hearts the words of Jesus given by Benedict XVI in 2011: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you!" (Jn 20:23). We offer our holy Rosary in October 2011 for Salesian missionary vocations!

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

Faithfully Inculturate the charism of Don Bosco



"... And you dear new missionaries, to carry out this mission of evangelisation and the change of heart of people and through that of the world, you cannot have a better model than Jesus as he is presented to us by Paul in his letter to the Philippians (2, 6-11). In fact, the Apostle invited us to make our own the sentiments which were in Christ Jesus, in other words to serve our neighbour with great humility. To succeed in overcoming

our egoism, which leads us to proclaim the Gospel with a spirit of competition or conceit, there is no other way than the imitation of Christ... This is the model of true inculturation, indispensable for evangelisation and touching the heart of the culture of peoples and transforming them. Going on the *missio ad gentes* means emptying oneself of everything that can separate us from the people to whom we are sent, of our presumptions, our knowhow, our qualifications, our economic means, etc., and to begin in humility like a child to learn their language, to know their culture, to appreciate all that they have that is good, true, beautiful, in a word to love them as Christ has loved them giving himself for them.

This imitation of Christ will be easier and more faithful if you manage to unite commitment to the mission with the Eucharist. This is the path of your sanctification, so that you can live what you celebrate and celebrate what you live. In this way the Eucharist will become the source of your mission and spirituality, and the mission will be an extension of the celebration of the Eucharist, completing in you body what is lacking in the passion of Christ.

In this first year of preparation for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, I invite you to study him in order to be able to faithfully inculturate his charism in the different places where you will be sent..."

Don Pascual Chávez Villanueva

Homily for the 142nd Salesian Missionary Expedition
Valdocco, 25 September 2011

(for the full text see <http://tinyurl.com/693gk3e>)



Volunteering made me think : "What is God's call for me?"



I am a Frenchman and an engineer by profession. During my final year in 1999, I decided to be volunteer. Providence would have it, that I was assigned as a teacher in a salesian presence in the Ivory Coast! In fact, I had given a thought to the consecrated life. But my search was still on-going. The impression on arriving among the Salesians of Korhogo is that of being welcomed as a brother. We shared everything: reflections, work, joys and sorrows ... After two years, I began to think seriously about my future: what is God's call for me ? What good could I do for the world? How can I serve? In reading the life of Don Bosco, I realised that it as a kind of a pedagogical parable to help us find solutions to today's youth. This allowed me to synthesize my many personal aspirations: to form, accompany, evangelise the poorest youth. But the love of Jesus is also central to my call. True love is to follow Him for life. Thus, I decided to begin my novitiate in 2001. The civil war in Ivory Coast in 2002-2003 made a deep impression on me. Did not God call me to become a missionary to be an agent of peace in this continent? It was then that I applied to the Rector Major and I was sent to Chad in 2009 after my priestly ordination.

In France and in Europe, Salesian vocations are scarce. To become a missionary "ad extra" is not easy given the needs of our European countries. However, it is not the number of confreres at the local level that determines the quality of our presence. In this world on has to be on the crossroads with a significant proposal while remaining at the heart of the problems of people. This is what it means to be missionary! The Congregation has understood this by sending us to where there young people are in greatest need.

I have learnt a lot from the *Orientation Course for New Missionaries*. It provided us with missiological and anthropological foundations which are of utmost importance. It also forewarned us about possible illusions and challenges in our missionary life: cultural shock, adjustment to a sometimes poorer context, distance from our family. Indeed being a missionary "ad vitam" requires a serious discernment both on the part of the missionary and of the congregation.

In this great country in the heart of Africa that is Chad, I found the climate and many other problems quite challenging. Many of these are meant for the Salesians: preventing the spiral of poverty, preparation of youth for work, inculturation in an inter-religious context with a strong islamic presence. Good will is often not enough to fight discouragement that comes. Thus, a missionary in Chad must be rooted in prayer and the sacraments to bear fruit. The Congregation has given a lot of attention to the countries in the Sahel region which are living in insecurity and poverty. But we need more confreres to make a contribution in the light of our charism! The many young people remind us of this. Two points seem particularly important: to adapt the preventive system to the African context and work together in well-focused projects. May the Lord call among our confreres enthusiastic missionaries to Chad!

Fr. Xavier de Verchère
French, missionary in Ciad



Salesian Missionary Intention

Delegates for Missionary Animation in all Provinces Worldover

That there may be Salesians in all the 90 Provinces who zealously foster missionary animation among confreres, in the communities, and among young people, lay collaborators with their teams.

The availability of confreres for missionary animation is needed to keep alive the missionary flame in each Province. A book by Fr. Anthony Roy, "Salesian Missionary Vision 1923-1967", published in Shillong, India in August 2010, and the magazine "Gioventù Missionaria" from Don Rinaldi until Vatican II shows the dynamics of missionary animation through missionary groups. We can take inspiration from this charismatic dynamism by organising missionary groups in every Salesian work, sending animation materials with regular frequency, prayer for missionary vocations ad gentes, sharing of experiences of the missionaries



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com