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«Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation»

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Let us Look Closely at the Holy Salesian Missionaries!

Dear missionaries, Salesian confreres involved in missionary animation and friends of the Salesian missions!

If we look at our Salesian Family – a Missionary Family, we find missionaries from all walks of life - Salesian cooperators (Servant of God Attilio Giordani +1972), Salesian Coadjutor - missionaries in their own countries (Servant of God - Simone Srugi +1946), Salesian sisters - missionaries either near one's place (Blessed Maria Romero Meneses +1977) or afar in other continents (Servant of God Maria Troncatti +1969), Salesian priests (Beato Luigi Variara +1923, Venerable Rudolfo Komorek +1949, +1965 Venerable Vincent Cimatti, Servant of God Andre Majcen +1999) and also Salesian martyrs (Saints Luigi Versiglia and Callisto Caravario +1930). And on the other hand, we can also find the first fruits of Salesian evangelisation like Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá (+1905) and Blessed Laura Vicuña (+1904). And we today? I think it is often very useful to let ourselves be inspired by living models of holy missionaries in our provinces! I hope we can share their profiles, experiences, and testimonies through Cagliero11.

One of the best ways of missionary animation is to make known the figures of our holy Salesian missionaries, along with their motivations, their lifestyle. Among the 160 saints, blessed, venerables, servants of God in our family we find as many as 32 Salesians - missionaries ad gentes.

I invite you to know them, make them known so that their testimony, their writings and their missionary creativity be a source of inspiration today, like a precious treasure.

I invite you to pray for all new missionaries in 2009, who received the Cross in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin and also for all the 70 other candidates who are missionaries in the path of discernment or in preparation for their forthcoming departure for the missions.

We know that the best missionary is a saint! (John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio* 92).

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councilor General for the Missions



The members of the 140th Salesian missionary expedition

Fr. Vincent Cimatti: A Holy Missionary

Vincent Cimatti was born in Faenza on the 15th July 1879 to James and Rosa Pasi, last of seven children. Of the three surviving brothers, and his sister, Sr M. Raffaella of the Congregation of the Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy, has been Beatified; Louis, Salesian Brother missionary in Latin America, died a saintly death, and he, Vincent, has been declared Venerable.

When he was three, they lost their father. His mother brought him to the parish church where Don Bosco was preaching: "Vincent, look, look there at Don Bosco!". He would recall the kindly face of the old priest for the rest of his life. At 17 he became a Salesian and was sent to Turin-Valsalice, where he taught and also completed further studies: a diploma in music composition from the Parma Conservatorium, a degree in agriculture, philosophy and pedagogy from Turin.

When he was 24 he was ordained priest. He taught for 20 years and was a brilliant composer at Valsalice. Generations of clerics knew him as their teacher. Meanwhile he was insistently asking the Rector Major: "Find me a place somewhere in the poorest, most difficult, most abandoned mission. I want nothing to do with comfort".

He was satisfied in his demand when he turned 46! Don Rinaldi sent him to lead the group founding the Salesian presence in Japan. He worked there for 40 years. He won the hearts of the Japanese by his kindness, getting involved, like Don Bosco, in the apostolate of the press and of music. He had around 2000 concerts in Japan, Manchuria, North and South Korea.

As rector of the first Salesian community in Miyazaki, he would become, three years later, the Superior of the new vice province. He travelled a lot to keep encouraging the first Salesians in Japan, opening works for those who were poor and abandoned. In 1935 he was appointed Prefect Apostolic. After the difficult war years, complete with all its difficult sacrifices, he founded "Boys Town" in Tokyo, accommodating 260 orphans and providing primary, secondary and technical schooling. In 1949, when he was 70 years old, he continued as rector of the studentate of philosophy and theology at Chofu for a further ten years.

He died here, like a patriarch, on the 6th October 1965. His body – re-exhumed in 1977 and found to be perfectly intact – now lies in the crypt in Chofu.

From the Letter of Fr. Vincent Cimatti to cleric Luigi dal Fior

(4 March 1938)

... Courage my Luigi: Be generous with the Lord, if you want Him to be generous with you. Total Donation: body and spirit: and with Don Bosco, he works for you and for others.

I will ask that Jesus will keep you as his usque in finem; and also that you may help your poor brother who, as you told me, (also Fr. Grigoletto Don wrote to me) is not well. I cannot be near you, but you can understand that with affection and with prayer I will be even closer to you.

Best wishes, therefore, and pray for me. On the 21st is St. Benedict's feast: "ora et labora", is so similar to "work is prayer" of Don Bosco. I embrace and bless you



Fr. Cimatti playing soccer with young Salesians



Mission ad Gentes is a Sign of Vitality

On the occasion of world Mission Sunday 2009 Benedict XVI underlines once again "the Church works not to extend power or affirm dominion, but to carry, to all, Christ, the salvation of the world" since "the effort to proclaim the Gospel to the people of today... is a service rendered to the Christian community and also to the whole of humanity". In fact the dispersion, multiplicity, conflict, enmity which afflict humanity".

The Pontiff underlines that "the Church's mission is to "infect" all peoples with hope" and "Christ calls, sanctifies and sends his disciples to announce the Kingdom of God, so that all nations may become the people of God... The universal mission should become a fundamental constant in the life of the Church. To announce the Gospel must be for us, as it was for the Apostle Paul, a primary and impelling duty".

"The mission of the Church, therefore, is to call all peoples to the salvation accomplished by God through his incarnate Son. It is therefore necessary to renew our commitment to proclaiming the Gospel which is leaven of freedom and progress, brotherhood, unity and peace (cfr *Ad gentes*, 8). I would "confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church" (*Evangelii nuntiandi*, 14) ... Missionary impulse has always been a sign of the vitality of our Churches (cfr *Redemptoris missio* 2).

In the conclusion the Pope reaffirms that "evangelisation is the work of the Spirit" and therefore he calls on Catholics to "to pray that the Holy Spirit will intensify the Church's passion for the mission to spread the Kingdom of God".

(for the full text <http://www.fides.org/aree/news/newsdet.php?idnews=24614&lan=eng>)



salesian mission intention October 2009

«That SDB confreres, FMA Sisters and the lay volunteers belonging to the 140th mission expedition may fit in well with their new mission assignments in their new provinces. May their example of total giving of self to proclamation of the Gospel awaken new mission vocations amongst Salesians»

On 27 September 2009 a new group of missionaries was sent out from the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians to Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. They come from 25 Provinces. We pray that their example may help "every province to foster a missionary spirit, generously placing at the disposition of the Rector Major Salesian personnel for *missio ad gentes* and foster mission vocations also amongst lay people and families" (GC 26,49).

