

CAGLIERO11



Number 6

«Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation»

11 June 2009

Dear confreres – missionaries of the young, and dear friends of the Salesian missions!

Greetings, thanks to this fine Bulletin now reaching almost 1500 SDBs and other members of the Salesian Family. Thanks to the cooperation of so many enthusiastic people, it has been circulating not only in the 'official' translations (Italian, Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Polish), but also in Russian, Japanese, Korean, Czech, Flemish. Thanks to everybody! During 2009 we would like to reach all communities and groups in the Salesian Family. Any help whatsoever in distributing it will be welcome!

In the final month of the Pauline Year we want to direct attention to a very important experience of Salesian mission animation. One of my dreams is to see a mission group in each house of formation, in every school-educative community, youth centre, Salesian parish around the world. There are some Provinces which as yet are not aware of this element.

Since the time of Fr Philip Rinaldi mission groups were launched in many Salesian works, and linked together by a magazine - '*Gioventù missionaria*' which came out in 7 languages. In June 2009 there will be a research item published in English on the dynamics of mission animation which came out of "*Gioventù missionaria*" from 1923-1967 (Italian edition). This will be the result of the work of Fr. Anthony Parackal (India-Shillong, Matthias Institute; aparackal@sancharnet.in). You can read some texts already in <http://sdl.sdb.org> (Salesian Digital Library). In this edition we report experiences of missionaries. I hope we can share the stories of so many other missionaries and mission groups!

Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
General Councillor for the Missions

Salesian missions are looking for new missionaries . . . ! (Europe)

<i>Province - Country</i>	<i>required languages</i>	<i>features of the setting and qualities required of missionaries</i>
EST Russia, Georgia	Russian, local languages	Countries of former Soviet Union, few confreres, works in Siberia
SLK Slovakia	Slovak, Bulgarian, Rumanian	Missionaries amongst Gypsies, Provinces asking for multi-racial communities, more effective in their work
CEP Czech Republic	Bulgarian ,Rumanian	Missionaries amongst Gypsies, Provinces asking for multi-racial communities, more effective in their work
GBR Great Britain	English	Project Europe – work for African migrants, parish, school; European confreres
BEN Belgium - Holland	English, Flemish, Dutch	Project Europe - works for migrants; asking for international communities
AUS Austria	German	Project Europe - works for migrants

Salesian mission intention June 2009

«That Salesian novices in Africa and Madagascar may mature in their consecrated calling through an authentic love and dedication to the poor, especially the young»

In the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus we think of the Salesian novices (around a hundred of them) entrusted to Him in the African continent and Madagascar. Coming from countries and families sorely tried by experiences of poverty they are increasing as a sign of great hope for all the young who are amongst the poorest in the world. This is one of the most precious charismatic services that the Salesians can offer the poorest countries of Africa and Madagascar.

for the Pope's general and missionary intention see: www.sdb.org

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From Latin America to Africa

I arrived in Recife (Brazil) by plane, at peace and, I must say, happy, after having said goodbye to Salesians and friends at the airport. I was starting out on a new adventure in Africa. However, when the aircraft began to take off, lifting off from the local soil, I thought of everything I was leaving behind: Brazil, a Salesian Province, lots of initiatives, many young people and friends I had got to know over 18 years of working in the North East.

With the lights fading behind me, I shed some tears, thinking about it all. And here I was, alone, setting off for another destiny! This when I found comfort from the reason for my choice, because being a missionary means having courage, and also leaving everything for Jesus to set out on the new paths he has pointed out!

On 31 January 2009 the plane landed on African soil. I immediately sought the intercession of Mary Help of Christians and Don Bosco, on his Feast Day, so that my Salesian mission experience would be blessed and protected.

On the first Sunday on Angolan soil, I took part in a beautiful celebration in the community of Mbondo Chapé, on the outskirts of Luanda... There was no church here but a shed on a piece of ground. I saw more than 800 arrive from where I could not say; they came from poor and distant homes, along sandy tracks under a hot sun, but all dressed up for a feast, cheerful and happy.

And while Mass was being celebrated, I felt the vibes and a great sense of participation, especially from the songs and dances. For me it was the discovery of a Church which was alive and growing amidst difficulties: not a church made of walls (because the shed had no walls, nor seats to sit on), but a lively church, made up of a people which sang and hoped in God their salvation.



Salesian theology students in Nairobi from 7 African Provinces

On that Sunday afternoon, more than 200 people belonging to different groups of the Salesian Family, especially ADMA (but Salesians, Salesian Sisters and Cooperators too), came together in the courtyard of St Paul's Church (a parish at the centre of Luanda, run by the Salesians), to hear the Rector Major's Strenna, presented by Fr Gino Favaro, Vice Provincial. Here in Angola one can sense the enthusiasm of the Salesian Family working for the same ideals as Don Bosco and truly being a great movement at the service of the young!

Fr. Luigi De Liberali, Salesian missionary in Angola

From Africa to Oceania

Since 24 August 2007 I have been away from my country and spent a month in Rome to receive the missionary cross then a year to learn English in Nairobi (Kenya). My sojourn in Nairobi wasn't a tourist stay but a time for maturing in my missionary calling. It is easy to tell someone to be patient, but to actually be so is sometimes difficult. That was what I experienced and I found that it was very important to be patient in order to live a good missionary life ... now, after 7 months living with the young in Papua New Guinea, I have found that my greatest joy is to feel so welcome amongst the young. It is certain that here I truly find myself amidst family. This gives me courage to persevere in my life as a missionary.

Despite their simplicity and hospitality the young need points of reference and models to shape their life around ... my presence amongst them is nothing else but that of a poor servant of Jesus Christ. This is why I discover that when one lives amongst the young there is nothing greater than being at their service. If Don Bosco himself was at the service of the young until he died, why not do the same thing for the glory of God and the salvation of souls?

I have become a missionary because I am fascinated by the love of Christ and would like to witness to it amongst the young following the way traced out by Don Bosco. It wasn't easy for me to leave Africa and especially the Congo, my own country. But fascinated by the love of Christ and the young, I could no longer delay in committing myself to the path of mission: "Go out to the world and proclaim the Good News"!

Br. Martin Ngoyi, young Salesian missionary in Papua New Guinea
Brs. Pedro Sachitula (Angola) and Addis Gebrekidan (Ethiopia) are also young Salesian missionaries in PNG