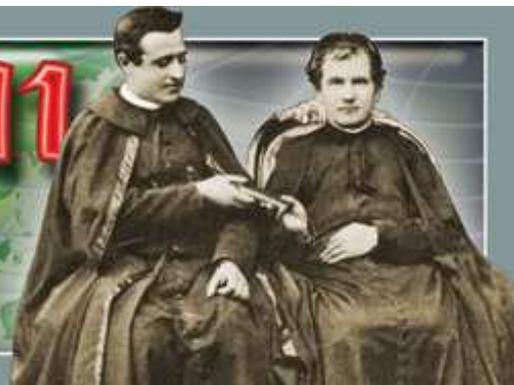


# CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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



Dear brothers, dear friends,

Enlightened by the Strenna 2016, with Jesus, we continue along this missionary journey with the Spirit. For this reason the Rector Major invites us this year to educate ourselves and to educate young people to value and foster in every sphere of life **solidarity with those who suffer**, the renunciation of one's self to serve others, the acceptance of life as a gift, as a service that makes us better, which frees from selfishness and gives meaning to our lives. *"These skills have to be proposed and practised,"* says Don Angel. Very often at the root of a missionary vocation is the initial and strong desire to be close to those who suffer. We think for example to very special call that Blessed Fr. Luigi Variara had, a Salesian missionary who was called to serve the lepers in Agua de Dios (Colombia), and to found from the charism of Don Bosco, a religious Congregation all centered on this solidarity with those who suffer.

Let us continue the adventure of the Spirit!

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



## THE PARISH: A FRONTIER THAT IS EVER MORE MISSIONARY

Although in his lifetime Don Bosco accepted 7 parishes, he was always considered the parish priest of poor and abandoned boys who were parishless. In fact, the Oratory in Valdocco was "a parish which evangelises". It is no surprise that in not too distant past the parish apostolate was not seen as a typical Salesian apostolate. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter which acknowledged the parish as the place for "an exemplary care for the youth community" (GC19, IX, 3). Then in 1971 the *Special General Chapter* recognised parish ministry as "an authentic Salesian apostolate" because it gives us "possibilities and favourable conditions for fulfilling our specific mission, the education of young people of the poorer classes" (GC20, 400-401). In short, the acceptance of the parish was justified by the possibility to minister to young people and the working class which was eventually codified in *Constitutions* art. 42 and *Regulations* art. 26. In this light parishes were placed under Youth Ministry and the *Frame of Reference for Salesian Youth Ministry* places 'Parishes and Shrines entrusted to the Salesians' under *Activities and Works of Salesian Youth Ministry* (Chp. VII), together with the Oratory-Youth Centre, School and Vocational Training Centre, Higher Education and social services for youth at risk!

But in our globalised world today the context has drastically changed. The parish - be it in the city, rural area or in the forest - has become "a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 28). In it one meets not only lapsed Catholics but also refugees, migrants, followers of other religions, and atheists of all ages: "people not yet evangelised" referred to by *Const.* 30.

Hence, in every parish territory one finds not only the committed faithful but also many who believe that they have already known Jesus enough and are contented of living their faith in a routine manner or as something cultural. There are also those who have received poorly the initial proclamation of the Gospel hence, having a weak and vulnerable Christian identity, they eventually abandon their faith in Jesus Christ or live it as something cultural without worshiping with the community nor receiving the sacraments nor getting involved in the life and activity of the Parish. Similarly, there are those who have not heard about Christ, those who search for Someone or something whom they sense but cannot name as well as those who go through daily life deprived of any sense.

Indeed, today every parish is becoming more and more a real missionary frontier where there is an urgent need of *ordinary pastoral care and activity, mission ad gentes* and *new evangelisation* as pointed out by St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* 32-33 way back in 1990!

It is necessary to rethink our Salesian parishes to make them more missionary, parishes that are really outgoing! In such a truly missionary situation it is urgent that every Salesian parish overcomes the pastoral work of ordinary maintenance which leads to pastoral acedia and, instead, rediscover the importance and relevance of initial proclamation as the key to pastoral conversion which, in turn, fosters missionary enthusiasm and brings about the joy of evangelisation (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 79, 82-83).

Fr. Alfred Maravilla, SDB  
Missions Sector

## We give a “second chance” to poor and disadvantaged boys



The Salesians arrived in Samoa in 1981 at the request of Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u “to do something for youth”. In 1989 Don Bosco Technical Centre commenced with the aim of giving a “second chance” by providing trades training for poor and disadvantaged boys.

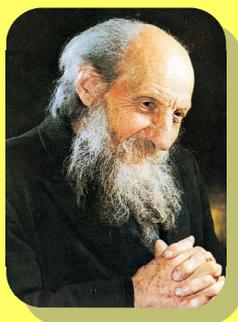
More than 25 years later we are still catering for about 180 boys who undertake a four year programme that firstly provides them with general trades training and then the opportunity to specialise in one of five fields: automotive, welding and metal fabrication, carpentry and joinery, plumbing and sheet metal, or electrical. Many of our boys have not successfully negotiated the mainstream schooling system and few have experienced success in life. Hence, our workshop and classroom programmes are complemented by

a variety of sporting and cultural activities. Our boys are recognised as one of the best large dance troupes in the country and we are frequently invited to provide entertainment for special national occasions. Our *fautasi* (long boat) crew is one of the most successful in the country and recently represented Samoa at the American Samoa Flag Day ceremonies. We utilise a combination of trades training, vocational education, spiritual formation, sports opportunities and cultural activities to offer students an enriching education and a pathway to a happy and positive future.

Samoa is a deeply religious and almost exclusively Christian country. The Christian faith is strong in Samoa and a vital aspect of Samoan culture. Daily prayers are an integral part of the cultural. We utilise this aspect of the culture to ensure that prayer, liturgy and faith formation are integrated into the daily routine of school life. Students study Religious Education in the classroom, lead prayer at daily assemblies and participate in numerous retreat and reflection days. Feastdays are celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm. This complements and brings depth to our trades training and vocational education, which offers students the training to prepare for the workforce. These various aspects of our overall programme enable students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be good Christians and active citizens.

The challenge is to provide the opportunities for our boys to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ and to discover the joy that comes from encountering him not only in daily prayer and liturgical celebrations but also in putting faith in action in daily life through service to those in need. In this way we help them live and celebrate their faith in a personal way in the context of a Christian community.

Fr. Chris Ford  
Australian, missionary in Samoa



### Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

We remember the **Servant of God Fr Carlo Crespi (1891-1982)**, a missionary in Ecuador. He imitated Christ in his preferential love for the poor, while approaching the little ones, in his concern for sinners, in disregard for himself and always with great humility, reflected in the simplicity of his actions. He writes in a letter of 1929: “Rev. Fr Ricaldone I am ready for work, for sacrifice, for everything: every day, however, the Lord shows me the tenderness of his love and guides me to sacrifice. Would that I could respond to Him, and always work for His glory”.



### Salesian Missionary Intention

For the Salesian Communities in Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, Papua New Guinea e Solomon Islands) that the communitarian prayer of the Rosary may bring the joy of the Gospel in all our works, amongst our young people and lay collaborators.

Australia as well as the whole of Oceania is among the first countries in the world entrusted to the maternal care of Mary Help of Christians. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the celebration of the first liturgical feast of Mary Help of Christians (1816-2016), we relaunch the Holy Rosary in Salesian communities and works, but especially in the families of our young people, lay collaborators and in the Salesian Family. The Salesian Mission Day 2016 invites us to focus on Initial Proclamation of Jesus Christ in Oceania, so let us place the Missionary Rosary in the hands of all the Salesians in Oceania!

