

# CAGLIERO 11



Number 11

«Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation»

11 November 2009

Let Us Read Again Don Bosco's Memento for the First Missionaries  
All Are Senders and Receivers

Memento to Missionaries  
Salesian Mission Intention November

## Let Us Read Again Don Bosco's Memento for the First Missionaries!

Dear Missionaries,

The 11th of November of each year reminds us of November 11, 1875. Our newsletter also carries the name CAGLIERO 11 for this very reason. All the twenty recommendations offered by the Don Bosco to John Cagliero which we have in the Appendix of our Constitutions, came from the missionary heart of our Father. Let us read these recommendations on this day during the Salesian holy year, a few weeks before the renewal of our religious profession on December 18, 2009. Wherever we are and wherever work we do, we are called to be missionaries of the young. If we have received the missionary cross and work in mission areas let us carefully read them again and meditate on them.

I remember you today from Bangladesh where I am visiting our first presence in Utrail, the mission of Fr. Francis Alencherry. It is one of the three new countries where we have established our presence in 2009.



**Fr. Václav Klement, SDB**

*General Councilor for the Missions*

### Members of the 140<sup>th</sup> Salesian Missionary Expedition

Name	Province	Mission	Name	Province	Mission
P Adaikalaraja, John	INT	Holland	P Martínez Martin, Santiago	SMA	Cuba
P Choi, Timothy	KOR	Papua New Guinea	S Maswili, Stephen Musya	AFE	Papua New Guinea
S Dang Dinh Minh Thang, James	VIE	Venezuela	L Matellán Carro, Antonio	SLE	Equatorial Guinea
P De Verchère, Xavier	FRB	Chad	S Mulet Lopez, Druhznier	ANT	Argentina
P De Pablo, Juan Carlos	SBI	Argentina	S Nguyen Manh Hien, Martin	VIE	Zambia
L Doan Van Tan, John Baptist	VIE	Uganda	S Nguyen Quoc Bao, Vincent	VIE	Paraguay
S Do Van Dung, Joseph	VIE	Venezuela	P Odrobinak, Anton	SLK	Ecuador
P Edamana, Cyril John	INK	Great Britain	S Paluku Maneno, Moïse	AFC	Papua New Guinea
P Escobedo, Marcos Sergio	MEM	Italy	P Perego, Davide	ILE	Lithuania
S Esteves Ramalho, Enio	ITM	Ecuador	P Praveen, Antony	INM	Austria
P Fekete, Vladimir	SLK	Azerbaijan	S Raja, De Rossi	ITM	Hungary
S Guria, Paulus	ING	Uganda	S Somora, Stanislav	SLK	Kenya
P Idczak, Blazej Sebastian	PLN	Austria	S Tran Bao Thang, Paul	Vie	Peru
S Muigai, Peter Kariuki	AFE	Sudan	P Vázquez, Francisco	SSE	Benin
P Kociolek, Pawel	PLS	Bangladesh	L Vu Van Khanh, Dominic	VIE	Paraguay
D León Mendoza, Alejandro	VEN	Middle East	S Werun, Antonius	ITM	Mongolia
S Mari Arulappan, Jayaraj	INM	Great Britain			

## All Are Senders and Receivers!



A quick look at the list of the members of the 140th Salesian Missionary Expedition shows that the majority of the missionaries come from countries which were once considered «mission areas». A Venezuelan is sent to the Middle East while two Vietnamese are sent to Venezuela; a Cuban is sent to Argentina while a Spanish confrere is sent to Cuba, A Slovak is sent to Kenya while two Kenyans are sent to Sudan and Papua New Guinea. It is no surprise if one would wonder and ask if it would be better, and perhaps more pastorally effective, if these Salesians just remained in their own Provinces where there is already a scarcity of personnel?

In response, it would be helpful to recall that in the early Church Jerusalem was the centre of Christianity while the surrounding peoples were the «gentiles». But then the centre gradually shifted to Christian Europe while the

rest of the world, «the pagan nations», were the object of mission. Thus, missionary activity was a unidirectional movement towards the «mission countries». It would be helpful also to recall that during the Second Vatican the Council Fathers struggled to do away with the idea that mission is a sphere of activity reserved to some special group in the Church. Thus, in *Lumen Gentium* the Church sees herself as God's pilgrim people destined to all the corners of the earth (*Lumen Gentium* 9-17). The source and foundation of her mission is the Trinity who sent the Son to save humankind from sin. Jesus Christ, in turn, gave the mandate to the whole Church (*Ad Gentes* 5) to proclaim the Word and to establish the Church among the people who have not yet heard of the Gospel (*Ad Gentes* 6). Since Christ is «the light of all nations» (*Lumen Gentium* 1) his Church is, therefore, the universal sacrament of salvation. It is in this light that we understand the Council's affirmation that «the pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature» (*Ad Gentes* 2). It is also important to note that already Vatican II used the term *mission* to refer also to those churches «founded long since», but «which are in a certain state of regression or weakness» (*Ad Gentes* 19).

Pope John Paul II insisted that the concept of *communion* lies «at the heart of the Church's self-understanding». *Mission* and *communion* are, thus, essential in our correct understanding of the mystery of the Church. It becomes clear, then, that every local Church, even those newly established, as a member of a communion of Churches, is responsible in mission-sending and reaching out to another local Church in a variety of need. In this light mission is not anymore only a movement towards the «mission areas». It is, now, multi-directional because it takes place wherever a Christian crosses a human frontier to supply a felt need. Similarly, every Salesian Province, rich or poor in personnel or resources, is co-responsible in the missionary endeavour of the whole Salesian Congregation. All are, therefore, senders and receivers! Thus, today missionaries can come from and also be sent to Africa, Asia, America and Europe. This is perhaps something we Salesians are just beginning to see but, in fact, it has been happening already for sometime now in many dioceses and religious congregations. Could it be that some Provinces or confreres are so comfortable to be either just «receivers» or just «senders» and not be senders *and* receivers at the same time? Yet, this is what it really means to be a member of the missionary Church which is a Church of communion!

Being a sender and a receiver is actually mutually enriching. A multicultural local Church or Province is able to look beyond its own concerns and better understand the needs of migrants, refugees, the marginalised as well as effectively promote intercultural dialogue and relations which is so much needed in our globalised and multicultural society today. Inculturation is certainly indispensable, but if our communities become mono-cultural it also brings the risk of reducing a Province or a local Church into an ethnic enclave unable to see beyond the borders of its cultural world. Thus, a certain degree of internationality among the confreres of every community enriches the whole Province. This, in turn, actually facilitates inculturation because the locals see a certain perspective of their culture which the expatriates do not but the expatriates could also offer perspectives of the culture not perceived by the locals. This multidirectional movement of Salesian missionaries, then, enriches the whole Congregation. It is in the light of this perspective that send only our best confreres as missionaries because such sacrifice of precious human resources by one Province will ultimately enrich the whole Congregation.

Alfred Maravilla, SDB

### Memento for Missionaries (11 November 1875)

1. Seek souls, but not money, honours, or rank.
5. Take special care of the sick, of the children, of the aged, and of the poor, and you will win for yourselves the blessings of God and the good will of people.
9. Stay away from idleness and disputes. Great sobriety in food, drink and rest.
18. To cultivate vocations to the priesthood and religious life instil 1) love of chastity; 2) horror of the contrary vice; 3) the avoidance of indisciplined companions; 4) frequent Communion; 5) charity, by means of special signs of kindness and goodwill.
20. Amidst toil and suffering never forget that a great reward awaits us in Heaven - Amen.

(for the full text: <http://sdl.sdb.org/gsdll/cgi-bin/library?a=p&p=home&l=it&n=1>)

### salesian mission intention november 2009

«That the Salesians who live in predominantly Muslim countries, through their testimony of life, foster many new and holy vocations to Salesian consecrated life»

We thank God especially for the first Salesian vocations from Indonesia, Pakistan, Sudan and Azerbaijan and other predominantly Muslim areas which received the gift of the Salesian vocation. As they grow in the faith and in their vocation in the churches of the diaspora, may they be the best among the young apostles of these environments as missionaries *ad gentes* - *ad extra*.



for the Pope's general and missionary intention see: [www.sdb.org](http://www.sdb.org)

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