

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



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

The Holy Doors of Mercy have just closed around the world. Even the mobile Door in the diocese of Gizo in the Solomon Islands, which was traveling on boats reaching the most remote villages of Oceania, the result of the tireless missionary creativity of our Salesian Bishop, Msgr. Luciano Capelli.

Dear confreres, dear friends, now it is a matter of keeping open - indeed, wide open! - the door of the missionary mercy of every heart and of every community. May this door never close, as was closed the door that night when the Virgin Mother was looking for a place to give birth to Emmanuel.

The poor and abandoned Lord continues knocking: let us not close the door!

Let us not close the door to the crowds of migrants from all continents!

Let us not close the door to the Middle East and to the millions of young people in the Arab world!

Let us not close the door to Europe and its youth frontiers of poverty and religious desertification!

Let us not close the door to the youth of the forgotten indigenous communities of Latin America!

Are you ready to open to let in and go forth? Perhaps this could be the best Christmas gift you can offer to our dear Father Don Bosco: Salesian missionary availability *ad gentes, ad exteros, ad vitam!* See you soon.

Guillermo Basañes
Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions



Christ is born for us,
let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!

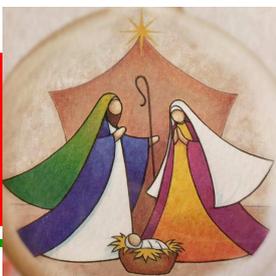
“Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Yet precisely where the incarnate Son of God came into the world, tensions and violence persist, and peace remains a gift to be implored and built.

“Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. Yet even today great numbers of men and women are deprived of their human dignity and, like the child Jesus, suffer cold, poverty, and rejection. May our closeness today be felt by those who are most vulnerable ... may our encouragement not be lacking to all those fleeing extreme poverty or war, travelling all too often in inhumane conditions and not infrequently at the risk of their lives.

“May God repay all those, both individuals and states, who generously work to provide assistance and welcome to the numerous migrants and refugees, helping them to build a dignified future for themselves and for their dear ones, and to be integrated in the societies which receive them!”

Pope Francis,
Urbi et Orbi Message - Christmas 2015

We wish everyone,
A Blessed Christmas!
“Cagliero 11” editorial team



My Missionary Vocation Is the Best Gift I Have Received



When I think about the beginning of my missionary vocation, I recall always how, as a child, my mother used to call me to do something: "Please come and do this or that." Whenever mom called I would stop whatever I was doing and I would try my best to do what she asked me to do.

My missionary vocation is similar to this call at a certain moment of my life. I remember that as a postnovice I had asked to be sent to the missions. 3 of my companions were sent to Papua New Guinea but I was not. This made me ask myself several times, "Why was I not sent?" Yet, I always nurtured my missionary vocation. I kept alive the missionary fervour burning in my heart by giving my very best in all the tasks assigned to me as a practical trainee and then as a student of theology.

Finally, in my final year of theology, my Rector informed me that I had received a double gift: my application for ordination to the priesthood had been accepted positively and that I would be sent as a missionary to Timor Leste. But my missionary vocation was immediately tested by fire.

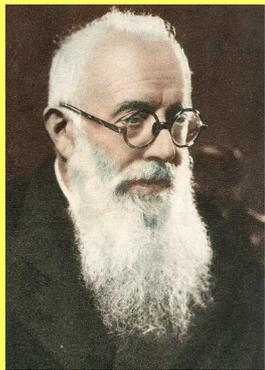
In 1992 I arrived in Timor when there was a very strong movement for independence from Indonesia. Actually, it was a miracle that I was given the permission to enter Timor but, when we respond to God's call, He takes care of the rest. Soon civil unrest broke out and many of our houses were burnt. My Provincial asked me to accompany our people who were fleeing the violence that was engulfing the country. There was total chaos. We lost contact with everyone. Some confreres even thought I was already dead and had offered masses for my eternal repose! I lived for months with Timorese refugees in Australia. But I never doubted God's loving protection for us all.

Through the years I have faced so many difficult and even life-threatening situations but I never regretted being a missionary. I initially thought that being a missionary meant preaching, teaching, etc. After 25 years I now realise that being missionary is more about patience, humility and kindness. Often times I would meet people whom I do not even recognise and they would tell me: "thank you for helping me come closer to the Lord" because I had ministered to them as young people so many years back!

Indeed, I can really say that my Salesian priestly and missionary vocation is the best gift I have received from our merciful God.

When God calls us we should not be afraid to respond. He will take care of the rest!

*Fr. José Dwight San Juan
Filipino, missionary in Timor Leste*



Witness of Salesian Missionary Sanctity

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

Venerable Msgr. Vincent Cimatti (1879-1965), missionary in Japan, writes in his letter to the Rector Major, Fr. Peter Ricaldone: "There is no shortage of people who observe the life of the missionary from a distance and for a long time, and they study his words and deeds. Thanks also to the Salesian spirit of serene cheerfulness, the outspoken concern for youth, one manages to attract people as well as sympathizers. And finally the charm of charity is irresistible, works of mercy cannot leave the pagan indifferent."



Salesian Missionary Intention

For the consolidation and the fecundity of Project Europe in every Province of Centre - North European Region.

The profound and rapid social and cultural changes in Europe often cause in people, and even among some confreres, discouragement and lack of confidence. We pray that Europe may not forget its Christian roots, and continue its missionary and evangelising commitment with optimism, hope and beauty based on Christ.

