

# AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSION



St. John Bosco Parish P.O. Box 1336 MCPO 1253 Makati City - Don Bosco Philippine North Province (FIN)

E- NEWSLETTER OF THE SALESIAN MISSION ANIMATION

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## JESUS IS BORN!!!

In a few days we shall celebrate Christmas, the holy day which is so full of meaning for all children in every family. Christmas is the feast day of a Child, of a newborn Baby. So it is your feast day too! You wait patiently for it and get ready for it with joy, counting the days and even the hours to the holy night of Bethlehem.

I can almost see you: you are setting up the crib at home, in the parish, in every corner of the world, recreating the surroundings and the atmosphere in which the Saviour was born. Yes, it is true!

At Christmas time, the stable and the manger take centre place in the Church; and everyone hurries to go there, to make a spiritual pilgrimage, like the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth.

Later, it will be the Magi arriving from the distant East, following the star, to the place where the Redeemer of the universe lay.

You too, during the days of Christmas, visit the cribs, stopping to look at the Child lying in the hay. You look at His mother and you look at St. Joseph, the Redeemer's guardian. As you look at the Holy Family, you think of your own family, the family in which you came into the world.

Dear children, as I write to you I am thinking of when many years ago I was a child like you. I too used to experience the peaceful feelings of Christmas, and when the star of Bethlehem shone, I

**1994 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO CHILDREN Pope John Paul II**

*Vatican City (CNS) The Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's message to children for Christmas 1994. It was dated 13 December and released at the Vatican 15 December.*

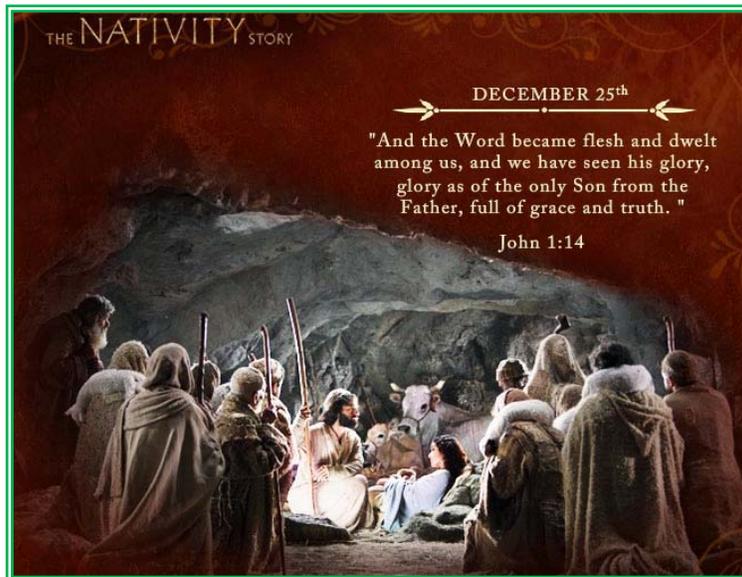
would hurry to the crib together with the other boys and girls to relive what happened 2,000 years ago in Palestine.

We children expressed our joy mostly in song. How beautiful and moving are the Christmas carols which in the tradition of every people are sung around the crib! What deep thoughts they contain, and above all what joy and tenderness they express about the divine Child who came into the world that holy night!

Dear friends! In what happened to the Child of Bethlehem you can recognize what happens to children throughout the world. It is true that a child represents the joy not only of its parents but also the joy of the Church and the whole of the society.

Pray dear boys and girls, that you will find out what your calling is, and that you will then follow it generously. Praise the name of the Lord! The children of every continent, on the night of Bethlehem, look with faith upon the newborn Child and

experience the great joy of Christmas. They sing in their own languages, praising the name of the Lord. The touching melodies of Christmas spread throughout the earth. They are tender and moving words which are heard in every human language; it is like a festive song rising from all the earth, which blends with the song of the Angels, the messengers of the glory of God, above the stable in Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!" (Lk. 2:14).



## A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON TO ALL

As we enter a new calendar year in this season of Advent, we intensify our preparations as we come to await the feast of the birth of our Savior. At Christmas we contemplate God made man, who is the divine glory hidden beneath the poverty of a Child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger; he is the Creator of the Universe reduced to the helplessness of an infant. This is a paradox that helps us to

realize what the Truth is that can transform our lives.

On Bethlehem Night, the Redeemer becomes one of us, our companion along the uncertain paths of history. Let us take the hand which he stretches out to us: It is a hand which seeks to take nothing from us, but only to give. With the shepherds let us enter the stable of Bethlehem beneath the loving gaze of Mary, the silent witness of his

miraculous birth. May she help us to experience the happiness of Christmas, may she teach us how to treasure in our hearts the mystery of God who for our sake became man; and may she help us to bear witness in our world to his truth, his love and his peace. Maligayang Pasko sa lahat!

Fr. Ting Miciano

## SALESIAN MISSIONARY ANIMATION FORMATION KIT

The Formation Kit is an experimental module intended to help in the formation of would-be volunteers and missionaries both for local and foreign missions. The Salesian Mission Animation Desk (FIN) is proud to share this little work among young professionals to answer the need of formation entertaining volunteer work as a lay missionary. Likewise, it is an answer to the call of the Mission Ad Gentes of the Church as part of each and everyone's missionary vocation. We are proud to share this Formation Kit to promote mission vocations in the province as our own initiative, if not the first, in synergy with other collaborators.

It is based on three phases followed successively one after the other. One cannot proceed to the succeeding phases not until each phase has been completed. Every phase has a corresponding module that talks about values and virtues needed in order to discover and inculcate the desire for missionary volunteerism.

Each module for the three phases is facilitator friendly. The modules are not meant to be taught in one sitting but in a process

that will require sufficient time for the young professionals to participate and openly discuss. Hence, the module can be given every time a group meets as a form of reflection guide and inputs.



It is envisioned that the Salesian Missionary Animation Formation Kit can be incorporated in the formation plan especially in Don Bosco College Canlubang and the Theologate. Likewise, it can be utilized in partnership with the Salesian Lay Volunteers of the Philippines and the Young Professionals for Peace. (Yuppeace).

At present, the Formation Kit is further being improved and being given to formators, psychologists and missionaries to be able to get feedbacks and necessary additional ideas and suggestions. Another module of the Formation Kit is being prepared intended for the Fourth Year high school students who would want to explore what volunteerism is all about.

We are distributing copies of the Salesian Missionary Animation Formation Kit. Please email us at [auxiliaries\\_of\\_the\\_mission@yahoo.com](mailto:auxiliaries_of_the_mission@yahoo.com) or text (632)0916.666.75.86 for inquiries

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SALESIAN MISSIONARY SYMPOSIUM

## A SYMPOSIUM ON LAY AND RELIGIOUS MISSIONARY FORMATION

Last November 10, 2007, a day before the commemoration of the first Salesian expedition in Patagonia of Fr. John Cagliero dated November 11, 1875, the Salesian Mission Animation (FIN) together with the Commission on Youth Ministry (CYM), held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Symposium with the theme "Preparing a Missionary Volunteer. As such, exactly 132 years after the dream of Don Bosco was realized to foray in new territories, the Salesian Mission Animation under Fr. Salvador Pablo, SDB has renewed the call to invite both religious and lay volunteers to participate in instilling mission awareness and volunteerism. In its most simple way, the Salesian Mission Animation office has been contributing to missionary awareness through the monthly circulation of the **Auxiliaries of the Mission** newsletter and through the sending of text messages to prayer warriors and among the Salesians as a show of support and appreciation to both lay volunteers and Salesian missionaries.

The missionary symposium was a one day affair that was held at the Roozen Hall in St. John Bosco Parish Makati City. Fr. Danny Torres, the vice provincial gave the opening remarks on the symposium. The highlights of the affair were an enlightening talk given by the guest speaker Sister Mary Evelyn from the Society of St. Paul. She developed on the three ideas vital in the need of committing to the missions specifically innate power, driving power and staying power. Another speaker for the event was Fr. Gary Carbon of the China province. He gave an overview of the missionary experience in China along with all the risks that accompany the work of evangelization. He capped the sharing with a meaningful and significant powerpoint presentation of the martyrs Bl. Versiglia and Fr. Caravario who gave their lives for the faith.



One of the highlights of the symposium was the launching of the experimental Salesian Formation Kit Handbook that intends to cater in the preparation of both lay volunteers and religious as well. It is the intention of the Formation Kit Handbook to be made available for Missionary Clubs in the schools and also among young professionals who would entertain missionary volunteerism.

The participants also had the opportunity to break into groups in processing one module that was presented in the assembly. This was also made in order to come up with a common resolution in line with the theme. The symposium was concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the afternoon.

It has been the common desire of the Salesian Mission Animation team to thank the Lord of the harvest for the countless missionaries both lay volunteers and religious who have come to serve in mission lands both here and abroad.