

M 28 : 19



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

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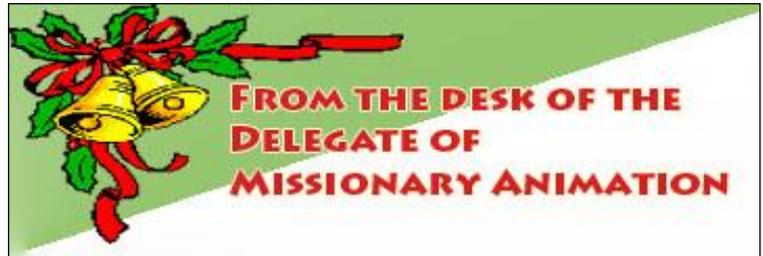
RECRUITMENT AND FORMATION OF LAY AND RELIGIOUS MISSIONARIES

Last November 8, 2008, the Commission on Missionary Animation of the North Province held a symposium in commemoration of the first missionary expedition of the first Salesian Missionaries led by Fr. John Cagliero. The symposium was a response to rekindle the missionary spirit of the Congregation in the north province. It was held in the 3rd Floor audio visual room of St. John Bosco Parish where the participants were composed of students, parishioners, salesian cooperators, lay leaders and animators, young volunteers and members of mission clubs who took time to listen and learn what lay volunteerism is all about. Fr. Danny Torres SDB presented the welcome talk to set the mood for the day. The commitment of Missionary Animation Office is to invite volunteerism among young people and hopefully one day see people commit to work in mission lands Ad Gentes Ad Extra.

Our understanding how to realize these needs has grown through the years considering the activity of the Holy Spirit in inspiring lay volunteers play significant roles in Evangelization.

From the perspective of these realities of volunteerism, the tendency for young adults to seek ongoing involvement within multi-cultural contexts means following the call of offering a couple of years of their life to become lay missionaries to immerse oneself in the love of God through concrete mission work and discipleship.

The intention of this year's symposium is to pose questions and identify issues for designing and conducting research strategies to recruit and form lay and religious missionaries. The desired outcome is to nurture healthy, satisfied lay volunteers who are spiritually integrated and go on to become mature Christian adults through mission work.



Dear friends and Co-Missioners,

As we start the season of Advent, we are invited to begin some restraint, to some self-denial, to feel tangibly our 'poverty' and our need for the Saviour.



This is what missionaries around the world do in order to be credible signs of God's message to others - to feel the need for Jesus in order to proclaim his word effectively. Advent is the time to get in touch with our need for Jesus so that when Christmas comes, we celebrate it with the actual presence of Jesus.

We renew our commitment to Missionary Work with one Christmas wish: that we consider establishing missionary animation desks in every setting as a way of support for encouraging missionary awareness and vocation. Have a grace-filled Advent, a Joyful Christmas and a New Year full of Blessings!.

In Don Bosco,

Fr. Salvador Pablo
Missionary Animation Delegate



*May you have the gladness of Christmas, which is hope;
the spirit of Christmas, which is peace;
the heart of Christmas, which is love.*

From the Staff of Missionary Animation Office



The Miracle School

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he Salesians of Don Bosco have been working in Papua New Guinea since 1980. While the struggles and the challenges continue to grow larger every single day, the assistance of Divine Providence makes its presence felt more and more by the transformation of the young and the growth of the workers in the Lord's vineyard.

No Salesian work is simply directed to a generic group of clients. The young take the preferential choice. On June 14, 1980 when the first group of Salesians stepped into St. Peter's Vocational School in Araimiri, the one and sole objective in the mind of the two priests and two lay brothers was to assist the young of the poorest province of Papua New Guinea so that they may have a hope in the future.

Nestled in the forested swamps of the Gulf Province, Don Bosco Araimiri faced all odds to give a proper education to boys and girls who were not selected in grade six to move on to high school, simply because the government had only so much subsidy for a mere fraction to those eligible. Thus, for sixteen school years the institution turned-out to society hundreds of boys and girls with greater chances to have a living.

The school suffered setbacks like lack of teachers and difficulty to obtain supplies. But the one that dealt it a deadly blow was when the sea

the center was but a place of meeting for the pastoral programs of the Diocese.

Thus, when in the early morning of October 1 of this year, twenty boys and twelve girls led by Fr. Peter Baquero trekked from Lariau, crossed the Vailala river and finally arrived at Araimiri, you can only imagine what memories surged in the minds and hearts of those who were there before. The school for the poor has reopened on the feast of the Patroness of the Missions, St. Therese of the Child Jesus. A hesitant period in the life of the PNG Missions project has come full circle and the Gulf Province has once more the needed place where the young can be educated. This indeed is one reason to celebrate the coming Silver Jubilee of the Salesian presence in the country called Paradise.

Admittedly it was 25th May when this took place, but the Gulf province of Papua New Guinea is, without doubt, one of the most secluded and unreachable parts of the globe, even by contemporary

that day, after a four year closure, calling it 'a miracle school'. And it certainly is that for the plantation children from Herehere, Ova'a, Ovahu, Lakkavu, Hiru, Lovehoho and Huiva villages.

The Primary School, closed four years ago because of poor infrastructure and staffing, was opened in the presence of Fr Peter Baquero sdb, Rector of the Araimiri community and the Don Bosco technical school there, Fr Robinson Parappilly sdb Parish Priest amongst the Kearu people, the tribe to which most of the children attending the school belong, and the Diocesan Education Secretary Mr Tony Malaisa. There were thousands of people, along with the children, who witnessed the event.

Fr Robinson felt that the most important need for the place was a good elementary school. "Children of the district who have grown up out of school have tended often to become adults without fear of God or man, some even turning to rascalism and drugs", he indicated. 'Rascalism' is the PNG term for young people who drift into the urban areas and join gangs. The re-opened school will accommodate 250 children, with the aim of helping them to grow up to be good Christians and honest citizens.

The school is now a permanent structure, built with the help of people from the villages and funded by the Salesians. "We have spent more than 40,000 Kina (approx US\$ 15,000) on the infrastructure and we are proud to invest this money for the benefit of the children in the Kearu area. With the help of the Government and education



started to eat into the property, at one point sweeping the staff houses with it. The decision was reached to phase out the school and by 1997

telecommunication standards. Bishop Paul Marx of Kerema Diocese blessed and re-opened the Dominic Savio Primary School on

department we hope to improve the living standards of the people and especially of the children and youth", he added.

The school in Araimiri began the Salesian history in PNG. For about seventeen years, it educated boys and girls from Grades Seven to Ten.