

AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSIONS



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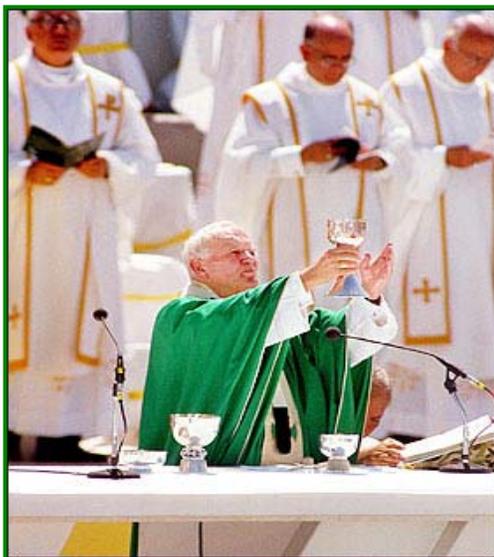
PRIESTHOOD: Gift and Mystery

By Pope John Paul II

Being a Priest Today

Fifty years as a priest is a long time. How much has happened in this half-century of history! New problems, new lifestyles, and new challenges have appeared. And so it is natural to ask: what does it mean to be a priest *today*, in this time of constant change, as we approach the Third Millennium?

Certainly the priest, together with the whole Church, is part of the times in which he lives; he needs to be attentive and sympathetic, but also critical and watchful, with regard to historical developments. The Council has pointed to the possibility and need for an authentic renewal, in complete fidelity to the word of God and Tradition. But I am convinced that a priest, committed as he is to this necessary pastoral renewal, should at the same time have no fear of being "behind the times," because the human "today" of every priest is included in the "today" of Christ the Redeemer. For every priest, in every age, the greatest task is each day to discover his own priestly "today" in the "today" of Christ to which the letter to the Hebrews refers. This "today" of Christ is immersed in the whole of history-in the past and the future of the world, of every human being and of every priest. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8). If we immerse our human and priestly "today" in the "today" of Jesus Christ, there is no danger that we will become out-of-date, belonging to "yesterday." Christ is the



measure of every age. In his divine, human, and priestly "today," the conflict between "traditionalism" and "progressivism" once so hotly debated- finds its ultimate resolution.

Humanity's Profound Expectations

If we take a close look at what contemporary men and woman expect from priests, we will see that, in the end, they have but one great expectation: *they are thirsting for Christ*. Everything else-their economic, social and political needs-can be met by any number of other people. From the priest they ask for Christ! And from him they have the right to receive Christ, above all through the proclamation of the word. As the Council teaches, priests "have as their primary duty the proclamation of the Gospel of God to all" (Presbyterorum Ordinis, 4). But this proclamation seeks to have man encounter Jesus, especially in the mystery of the Eucharist, the living heart of the Church and of priestly life. The priest has a mysterious, awesome power over the Eucharist Body of Christ. By reason of this power he becomes the steward of the greatest treasure of the Redemption, for he gives people the Redeemer in person. Celebrating the Eucharist is the most sublime and most sacred function of every priest. As for me, from the very first year of my priesthood, the celebration of the Eucharist has been not only my most sacred duty, but above all my soul's deepest need.

My Dear Friends,

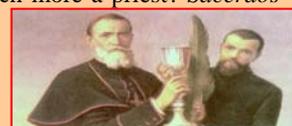
June 8, 2007

Peace in Christ Jesus!

As the Easter season draws to an end, we are once again being reminded that Jesus is not just One-of-us and One-for-us but One-with-us until the end of time. He has given us the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders to perpetuate his presence here on earth. His body is food for the mission. His blood is shed for reconciliation.

Indeed, there is no priesthood without the Eucharist; there cannot be any Eucharist without the priesthood; there is no priesthood, nor Eucharist, without Christ. The deep need for Jesus has long been felt in all places, at all times. Mother Teresa was never tired of saying: "Give us Jesus, only Jesus, always Jesus!" Thomas a Kempis wonderfully writes: "What a wonderful mystery is this great dignity of priests, to whom is given that which is not given even to the angels! Priests alone, being rightfully ordained in the Church, receive the power to celebrate and to consecrate the Body of Christ." If every Christian is *Alter Christus* (another Christ), how much more a priest? *Sacerdos alter Christus!* O Christian, how great is your dignity. O priest, how greater is yours.

Fr. Augustin Miciano, SDB
Missions Animation Office



SALESIANS MINISTERING AMIDST WAR IN SUDAN

Don Bosco Mission Center

This important Salesian presence in Tonj is an oasis in the desert of death that surrounds it. It is jointly administered by the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Salesian Sisters and its ministries include: a large parish, a school, a medical clinic, and a leprosarium. While the facilities may appear to be primitive when considered against the standards of more developed nations, they have become the focal point of reference in a community that has no central administration.

Because schools were shut down for nearly twenty years, the educational level of the people has suffered. But they are eager to learn, and their thirst for knowledge and formal education is strong. Classes on the most primary level are attended by students who range in age from 6 to 16. Adult education has students from 17 to 50. Playing catch-up for years of neglect means that everyone is at the most rudimentary level of education, but their eagerness to advance is moving to see.

Brother Giacomo Comino

"More than 250,000 people are dependent on outside help," reports Salesian Brother Giacomo Comino. Br. Giacomo has been the Bursar of the St. Joseph Institute in Khartoum, in the city where for ten years more than a million evacuees from the southern region of Sudan have

been living in inhuman conditions. "In these camps there is an incredible desperation and great misery. The evacuees try to build temporary shelters with branches and sheets of plastic which are then destroyed with the next downpour." But the greatest need is for food and medicine. Br. Giacomo cannot see an end to the humanitarian catastrophe: "Only when people feel safe will they



return home. However when they try to start again they will need help from outside. There has been too much destruction by the militias in the western region of Sudan: more than 50,000 have died and more than a million have left their villages." The

Salesians in Sudan have responded to the emergency: "We have sent a representation there as a point of contact and to keep us in touch.

While some have sought refuge in Tonj, others have gone to Kakuma, Kenya, just across the border from Sudan. In a new "city" comprised of 70,000 refugees, the Salesians have set up three technical schools within the camp. They have helped provide food, shelter, education, and recreation to the desperate people who escaped murder and hunger.

Salesian Commitment

This desert land, overwhelmed by war, drenched in blood is now the land to which God has called the Salesians to be apostles to the young. The five presences of the Salesian communities – St. Joseph Tech in Khartoum, Don Bosco Training Center in El Obeid, missionary parishes in Khartoum, Tonj and Wao – are the fields of ministry in which we try to plant the seeds of hope so that the future of the Sudan will be brighter than the past and war will be a distant reality. We ask our readers to join us in praying for the people of Sudan and for the Salesians ministering there, so that they may persevere in building up their country.

Fr. Faroni celebrates diamond as a Salesian/ gold as a Priest

By Fr. Remo Bati, SDB

The Rev. Adolf Faroni, SDB was born at Treviso, Italy on February 9, 1923. As an elementary student, he studied at Correggio, Italy, but then the family migrated to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he finished his secondary schooling. Having listened to God's call, he entered the aspirantate at the age of 17 at Bernal. After five years, he went to the novitiate and made his first profession at Moron, Buenos Aires on January 31, 1947. Bro Adolf went back to Bernal for his philosophical studies, after which he spent his practical training with the young at Bernal and Ramos Mejia. He was sent to England for his theological studies from 1953 to 1957, where he was ordained priest on June 15, 1957 at Melchet Court. With missionary spirit and zeal, he immediately worked in the Philippines that same year, where he was together with some of the Salesian Pioneers at DBTI Victorias, Negros Occidental. From there, he was assigned to

Canlubang Seminary and St. John Bosco Parish Makati where he fulfilled the tasks assigned to him with diligence, dedication and love. Often he gave the impression of being very strict and serious but deep within him is a golden heart, full of love and understanding for the young.



While engaged in active apostolate among the young, Fr. Faroni succeeded to combine work and study and earned his Master's Degree in English (1972).

Going deeper into his mastery

of English, he graduated with flying colors as Doctor in Literature in 1977 from UST Manila.

With the ardent zeal to let Filipinos all over the country know more about Salesianity and the most recent issues on faith and morals, he translated some of the books related to these from Italian, Spanish and French into English. So far, he has already written at least 160 books and booklets dealing with Salesianity, Mariology, Mission, etc. They are all very interesting and enriching reading materials. Apart from these, he is very consistent and regular in hearing confessions at St. John Bosco Parish, Makati where he is much appreciated not only as Confessor but also as Spiritual Director. Thanks to Fr. Faroni for having spread the Salesian spirit throughout the country through his pen, writing with love!