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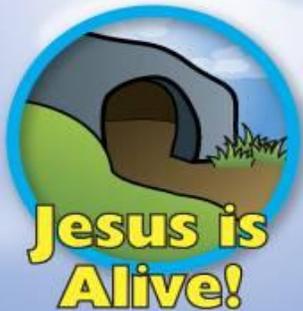


Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

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JESUS' RESURRECTION AND THE MISSIONS!

In this season of Easter, we savor the truth and reality of our faith for Jesus conquered sin and has opened heaven for us. As part of the Missionary Animation advocacy, we uphold the complementarity of the Resurrection of Jesus and Missionary life. What has the resurrection have to do with missions? Our answer is **Everything!**

St. Paul proclaimed in his epistles "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone-- an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."
Acts 17:29-31

We must be careful to guard against any idea of missions that takes away from this one fundamental task: to proclaim God's message of repentance and forgiveness through Christ to "all people everywhere." The task of proclaiming God's message to the world has been entrusted to the church. It is a task that we must fulfill.

The message that St. Paul admonishes us to tell "to all people everywhere" is the message of repentance. It is by the power of the Resurrection that gives credence that God has given that this message is the truth. God continually communicates this message of repentance to all people everywhere through missions, and the incessant preaching of missionaries.

A Blessed Easter Season to all!

Support the Establishment of the Missionary Animation Desks in every Salesian Setting!

The Arrival of Don Bosco in the Philippines Requests made to the Salesians 1891 - 1951

The following article is lifted from the book authored by Fr. Greg E. Bicomong SDB which traces the pioneering work of the early Salesian Missionaries in the country. It is important that one can appreciate the roots of missionary animation right from the beginning so that the advocacies done in the present find its roots from the initial work started by the pioneers.

The book offers a historical sketch, not of the growth of the Salesian Society in the Philippines since 1951, but of the circumstances surrounding the arrival of the first missionaries. It took sixty years between the first request for the Salesian (1891) and their arrival to settle permanently in the Philippines (1951).

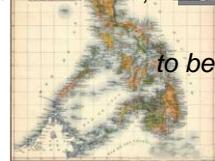
Requests from the Governor General

The last ten years of the 19th century were critical years for the Church in the Philippines. Freemasonry mounted an aggressive campaign against the Church. Massive propaganda for political and ecclesiastical reforms, particularly demonstrations against the religious orders, was closely tied with the cry for national independence. Ironically, it was

during this turbulent period that the Salesians were first invited to start missionary work in the Philippines.

The request came in 1891 from Eulogio Despujol, Governor General of the Philippines during the Spanish era from 1891 – 1893. The represents the first documentary available. Despujol, aware of the immense good that the Salesians were doing in Spain, commissioned his nephew Marquis of

Palmerola in Manila to write a letter to Fr. Philip Rinaldi, then Superior of a Trade School involved in printing, shoemaking, carpentry, tailoring, and other trades in Sarriá, Spain.



to be continued

TAKING RISKS IN MISSION LIFE

ANS SALESIAN
INFO
AGENCY

13/2/2009 - Papua New Guinea - A Salesian attacked

(ANS – Vanimo) – Yesterday, 12 February, Fr Anthony Nguyen Ngoc Dung was attacked by a drunken student at the "Don Bosco Secondary School" in Vanimo.

At the moment there are no further details available about the tragic event other than the fact the young attacker was drunk. The Salesian was immediately taken to the hospital in Vanimo for treatment and surgery; if his condition does not improve he will have to be taken to Port Moresby.

Fr Nguyen Ngoc Dung is a 38 year old Salesian from Vietnam who arrived as a missionary in the Philippines in 2002. On 1 September 2008 he was transferred to the house in Vanimo.

16/1/2009 - Congo-Kinshasa: Two Salesian Missionaries Injured in Gang Attack

Goma — Two Catholic religious working in eastern DR Congo are nursing injuries in hospital following a violent attack by an armed gang on Wednesday night. The gang stealthily entered the Salesian community at the Industrial Technical Institute in Goma and assaulted the five religious men living in the school. The institution is located near the headquarters of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

The gang took away everything they could from the house, the Salesian News Agency (ANS) reported.

The rector of the institute, Fr Firmin Kikoli, and Brother Alonso Honorato were injured and hospitalized. Doctors said that their conditions are not very serious.

On receiving news of the attack, Fr Guilherme Basa-es, Salesian Councillor for the Africa-Madagascar Region, said: "We know how in recent times the Congregation, the Pope and the world have looked with compassion at the tragic situation of the people and the youngsters of Goma. Let us continue this network of closeness and solidarity, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to inspire effective processes leading to justice and peace". The community of the Industrial Technical Institute in Goma, the first Salesian foundation in the city, is now at the heart of the civil war in eastern Congo. Opened in 1981, institute has a secondary school, a festive oratory and various pastoral activities.



(March 30, 2009) - Fr. Anthony at present is recuperating at the mini hospital in Don Bosco Makati. He spends some time sharing his reflections about life and what his missionary experiences have taught him. We pray for his continued recovery.

There are times mission life can be unpredictable. The **Salesian News Agency** reported two incidents just in the beginning of the year involving Salesian missionaries under assault. These attacks could be more, but the more publicized have happened early this year particularly in Congo-Kinshasa and in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea. *(Read accompanying article).*

Fr. Anthony Nguyen Ngoc Dung is a Vietnamese Salesian who shares snippets of what happened in his near death experience after being physically attacked by a student in Don Bosco Vanimo.

His Salesian vocation began when he was still 18-years-old amidst a young and suffering Church in Vietnam. He entered the aspirantate from 1996 to 1998 leading up to his postnovitiate. It was on August 15, 1998 that he then took his first profession. The then Br. Anthony spent his first year practical trainee in Vietnam from 2001 – 2002. In the succeeding year, he came to the Philippines on March 16, 2002, upon the exchange program between Vietnam and the Philippines. He was assigned in Don Bosco Canlubang where he organized the football club of the school winning friends among the youth through sports. Br. Anthony had his first taste of the missions when he was sent in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea from May 2003 – 2004. It was finally in August 1, 2008 that he was ordained to the priesthood. In his love for the missions, Fr. Anthony spent his first year of priesthood back in Vanimo.

Fr. Anthony recalls the attack on the fateful day of February 12, 2009. It was at 6:30 pm during supper time with the boarders. The boy, a grade 12 student-boarder, approached him at the dining area while everyone was having their meal. He received the boy with a smile but he was greeted by being struck with a bush knife straight to the right shoulder opening a deep wound. The laceration hit vital parts of the large veins in his arms causing large amount of blood to spill out. The boy kept swinging the bush knife as Fr. Anthony tried to ward off the attacks. He used his right arm to repel the knife but his fingers were cut too in the process. The boy lunged the knife straight to his abdomen as a final blow where it finally could have been Fr. Anthony's last. He lay almost dead on the floor. Somehow, during the commotion, some of the boys got the courage to stop their fellow boarder from the ruthless attack.

Fr. Anthony has undergone several operations and blood transfusions when he was brought in the Philippines for medical treatment. He continually pray and thank God for his near death experience. It was a moment of blessing for him when others might think of it otherwise. Through it, he sees what is truly essential in life.

Fr. Anthony has no bitterness for the boy. He was asked by the Diocesan bishop what his last words were as he was given up for dead after the attack. Fr. Anthony with all conviction said *"Do not punish the boys. I forgive him before he even asks forgiveness. I love him more now."*