

back on the tour of duty



Fr. Eduardo Revilla SDB

Last January 5, 2009, in a simple get together affair, the Missionary Animation Office FIN - under the missionary delegate Fr. Salvador Pablo, hosted a luncheon gathering to mark Fr. Eduardo Revilla's return to another round of tour of duty as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. He has served the people of PNG for 11 years before coming back again for his new assignment.

To date, Fr. Eduardo has worked a total of forty-seven years as a missionary to the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. We look back as how the seeds of his vocation to Salesian life began.

agreed to help him in the vocation campaign.

Eduardo and his companions first entered the aspirantate at Astudillo, Palencia then continued at the aspirantate at Arevalo, Avila. In 1952, Eduardo entered the Novitiate in Mohernando, Guadalajara and made his first religious profession the 16th of August, 1953.

From the Novitiate, the young Salesian proceeded to the Post-Novitiate at Gudalajara, Guadalajara. At Deusto, Bilbao Br. Eduardo plunged into his Practical Training; after which he would move on to

On a Mission to Spread God's Word to the Youth of PNG

Melchetcourt, England for his theological studies. Fr. Eduardo was ordained on March 17, 1962.

After ordination, Fr. Eduardo embraced life in the missions settling in Victorias, Negros Occidental for his first posting as Catechist. Since then, he had seen action in Mayapa, Canlubang as Parochial Vicar; in Tarlac as Catechist; in Tondo as Administrator; at DBTI Makati as Catechist and at San Fernando as Economer. He also served as Administrator of Salesian Publishers in Makati before becoming Parish Priest at the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Better Living, Parañaque.

Burning with the zeal for missionary work, Fr. Eduardo applied in 1995 to join the Salesian missions in Papua New Guinea and was appointed as Rector at Vunabosco, East New Britain. After these demanding years, he would be recalled to assist his sick and aging confreres at Tabor House, Calamba, Laguna as their Rector. Currently, he is a member of the Post-Novitiate community where he continues to inspire our young confreres with his love for Don Bosco and with his Salesian zeal and experience in the apostolate.

THINK MISSION . . . DO MISSION!

Fr. Edwin Genovia SDB



(While on vacation from his missionary work as the present Rector of Vunabosco Agro-Technical School, Rabaul Papua New Guinea, Fr. Edwin gives time to answer candidly our questions. We are grateful for the time given in spite of his busy schedule. As an introduction, he narrates to us the story of his vocation for the missions.)

I was born in VICMICO, Victorias where the Salesians – priests, brothers and sisters, are a common sight. I was baptized by a Salesian priest, studied under the Salesian sisters from kinder to Grade 2, and then under the Salesian priests and brothers from Grade 3 to 6. My parents, though not often practicing Catholics, were good Christians who encouraged me to pursue my Salesian vocation when I first mentioned to them my desire to enter the seminary in my high school years.

My missionary vocation had first grown in Don Bosco Missionary Seminary – Lawa-an, Talisay, Cebu with my close contact with the elderly Salesian missionaries like Fr. John Peter Clifford and especially Br. Mario Rossi whose stories during our recreation time in the evening about his China experience and exploits had entertained and enthralled us all young aspirants. During my college years in Canlubang, the many Salesian missionaries that were invited by our superiors in the seminary, who were unanimous in telling us about the beautiful place, the wonderful people, and their challenging work in the mission, had made me decide to apply for the mission. **And I did!**

Missionary Animation (MA): What is the future of the mission work in PNG? How do you assess the work of Don Bosco in PNG? What is the background of present work in PNG?

Fr. Edwin (EDGE): Papua New Guinea is a young country with lots of young people and for us, Salesians as well as for the Salesian volunteers, it's a kind of a Promised Land for there's really a great need and a great work for us.

Don Bosco is making a name in the field of Technical Education. There's still lot of work to be done to make the name Don Bosco synonymous to "good Christians and responsible citizens".

Mainly, our work in PNG is focused in schools, providing not only education but also skills in the technical field. We are also looking after the parishes.

MA: What are the joys and hurts in the missions?

EDGE: The joys of working in the mission were truly blessings and they were many (that could fill up some pages if I am going to enumerate each one and I was asked that this write up should only be one page). I am especially happy when we, the Salesian family, come together (this is once a year event and not all could be present). It had not only to strengthen our bonding but it always made me proud and fortunate to be a member of such a family.

Hurts.... hmmm, I don't consider them as hurts but disappointments and I had my share. The difference?... The way I see it, disappointments were easily forgotten, hurts were not.

MA: What is Ecclesiology of mission for you?

EDGE: "Every Christian is a missionary and each soul is a mission land".

Working for the salvation of souls is not just the work of missionaries but of every Christian. If you're a Christian, you cannot but be a missionary... a man / woman with a mission.

MA: Please give a simple message to our readers to nurture or discover a missionary vocation for aspiring missionaries both lay and religious.

EDGE: Lots of people have chosen to leave their homes (their family and their country) for financial reason and security. They were willing to make sacrifices and to work harder for financial gain. They are highly motivated. Early Salesian missionaries have made also that choice but for reason of making the Gospel be known. They too were greatly motivated. Can we do less when it is our turn and and when we are given the chance?

Think Mission... Do Mission.

There's still lot of work to be done to make the name of Don Bosco synonymous to "good Christians and responsible citizens" ...