

Auxilliaries of the MISSIONS



The Salesian Animation Newsletter

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The Salesian Missions as the heart of Pastoral Charity

As a young man, Don Bosco had thought about going to the foreign missions. Father Cafasso, happily, discouraged him. But the missionary spirit remained in him with the same intensity which inspired his vision, his thrust and his pastoral work. He was a missionary there in Turin. He began by making contact with the forgotten youngsters on the fringe of society; he pushed on to the urban frontiers of evangelization and education. Still, the dream remained. It was more than a dream, really; for the missions were the subject of many of his prophetic visions and a new field of labor to spread the Gospel to the young.

In one of Don Bosco's dream, he found himself looking down upon a screaming horde of savages who were massacring a band of white men. From the distance, these natives approached a few missionaries who were wearing the garb of their orders, and pounced upon them with wild satisfaction. Terrified by their blood-curdling yells and inhuman cruelty, Don Bosco gasped to see another group of missionaries coming through the jungles, surrounded by children. They were his own Salesians! Certainly they would fare no better than the others, but the yelling ceased. The wild faces of the savages became human again. They dropped their weapons and sheepishly looked up into the missionaries' faces. Then they bowed their heads in prayer!

Don Bosco's dream became a reality in 1875. At the request of Argentina and the Holy See, Don Bosco sent ten missionaries to Buenos Aires to care for Italian immigrants. Four years later, under the energetic leadership of Fr. John Cagliero (later Cardinal), they penetrated the hinterland of Patagonia down to the icy Strait of Magellan and the Falkland Islands. In ten years, the Salesian missions were established in South America from Cape Horn to the lush jungles of Brazil's Rio Negro valley.

Because of this humble beginnings, the missionary trait became part and parcel of every Salesian, because it is rooted in the salesian spirit itself. As Fr. Vecchi writes in a Letter to the Salesians: The missions "is like the heart of pastoral charity, the endowment which characterizes the vocation of all." In our present times, we affirm the work of St. John Bosco by spreading the awareness on missionary work and the spreading of the Gospel.



Message from the Delegate

My Dear Friends,

Peace in Christ Jesus!

On February 25th, we commemorate the 77th Anniversary of Saints Aloysius Versiglia's and Callistus Caravario's martyrdom in China. As our protomartyrs, it is not just the fact that they deserve our honor, gratitude and reverence that give us a multitude of reasons to celebrate. They are also worth imitating, communing with and meditating upon. As our pioneers, their virtues also serve as living challenges that can compel us to follow where their footsteps have trod in this lifelong journey to holiness.

The opposite of love is not hatred, because hatred is only love's absence. The opposite of love is fear. Fear thwarts, fear incarcerates, fear paralyzes. Fear disables love. For indeed, "No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13. Only those who can courageously love and live their faith are the ones capable of dying for the faith.

May the blood of our protomartyrs fill your chalice to the brim and well-up the fountain of faith of your confreres, boys and parishoners!

Your Partner in Mission,

Fr. Salvador F. Pablo, SDB
Mission Animation Delegate



MISSIONARY VOUNTEERISM

Last November 11, 2006, a Missionary Symposium was organized to foster volunteerism and further heighten the awareness for missionary work. The top three resolutions are indicated as follows:

MISSIONS

We commit ourselves to:

- Pray for the missions and for the intentions of the missionaries around the world.
- Make missionaries share their experiences
- Advocate missionary work to students, teachers, and friends.

SUDAN

We commit ourselves to:

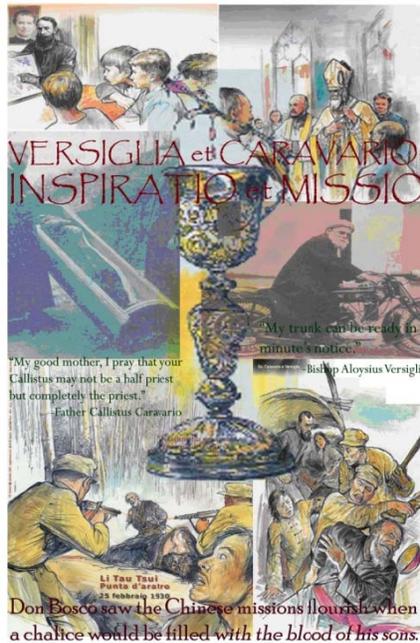
- Pray for the people who are suffering particularly the people of Sudan.
- Prepare potential missionaries for Sudan.
- Send missionaries to Sudan.

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. (1 Samuel 3:10)

Inspiratio et Missio: Bible Service

The Bible Service was held on Sunday, 3:00-4:00pm, February 25, 2007 at the Mary, Help of Christians Chapel, SJB Parish, Makati. The 30 participants came from the different Youth Ministries.

The ceremony started with the praying of the Holy Rosary. It was followed by a short welcome address from the Mission Animation Delegate, Rev.Fr.Boy Pablo, SDB. After a few moments of silent reflection, the paraliturgy commenced with the singing of the entrance song. The readings were taken from the Common of Martyrs. Bro.L.A.Custodio, a diocesan seminarian led the celebration. His sermon was based on the theology of sacrifice. According to him, "just as the blood of the pelican bird is shed for the life of her offspring during famine, so is the blood of the martyrs shed for the life of the Church during crisis." The primacy of sacrifice is reiterated as "to make something holy" from latin "sacrum" and "facere." To deny



oneself, to take up one's cross daily and to come after Jesus are the prime conditions for authentic Christian discipleship.

The celebration ended with a call to action and commitment for the participants to be docile disciples and ardent apostles of the Word, having Bishop Versiglia and Father Carravario as the epitome of laying down one's life for one's friends, laying down one's entire being to the God who loved us first.

After the Bible Service, the participants proceeded to the DBYC office to share their insights. Most of them reflected upon the nature and cost of discipleship. According to them, the element of sacrifice is always present in the life of a Christian disciple. The imperativeness of growing with and learning from the school of the saints is not just a mesmerizing challenge, but a sacred calling to be missionaries of what John Paul II calls "The New Evangelization,"

where the young Church plays a very lofty role.

THE MISSIONARY PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Proto-Missioner of the Father, to bring us the glad tidings of salvation.

You are also the Sender of the Pentecostal Spirit, and the Cornerstone of the Missionary Church.

We thank you for the Faith you gifted us, through the foreign missionaries who brought it to our land.

Bless the missionaries you now send beyond the seas unto distant lands, to peoples or groups where you and your Gospel are not known.

(RMi, 33)

Stir us to pray for and support constantly the supreme duty and the premier task of "going out to all nations to proclaim Christ."

(RMi, 3)

Grant us the spirit of great pioneer-missionaries, who gave their full and life-long commitment to missio ad gentes, ad extra, which holds the pride of place in the Church. (RMi,32,66,79)

Make our country a missionary country, make our parish a missionary parish, and make our families missionary families.

Amen.