



# 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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## Mary: Mother of God



A woman is a man's mother either by carrying him in her womb or by contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both of these senses; because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all of the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her—not Joseph—that Jesus "was descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3).

Since Mary is Jesus' mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical logicians since before the time of Christ.

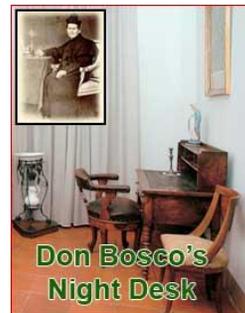
Although Mary is the Mother of God, she is not his mother in the sense that she is older than God or the source of her Son's divinity, for she is neither. Rather, we say that she is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person—Jesus Christ, God "in the flesh" (2 John 7, cf. John 1:14)—and in the sense that she contributed the genetic matter to the human form God took in Jesus Christ.

We seek Mother Mary's protection as we welcome this New Year ahead of us renewing our efforts to further Missionary Animation in the whole province. A Blessed Missionary Spirit-filled New Year to all!

Don Bosco has touched a lot of lives from his simple desk. It is the same appeal we make to you to actualize the initiative of the Missionary Animation Desks in every Salesian Community come the start of the New School year. We relive the wonders of what a simple desk can do as Don Bosco did.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

- WHO:** Rectors and Spiritual Moderators
- WHAT:** Establishing Missionary Animation Desks
- WHERE:** Every Salesian Setting: Schools, Parishes, Training Centers
- WHEN:** Planning of Calendar School Year (2009 - 2010)
- WHY:** Strengthen Missionary Animation Fervour in the Province



# A MATTER OF PATIENT CONSISTENCY



I am presently working in Araimiri (Gulf Province) in Papua New Guinea. I entered PNG on 14 June 1993. I was assigned in Port Moresby as a practical trainee. I was transferred on my last year to Araimiri (1995). I studied theology at DBCS Paranaque from 1996 to 2000.

In March 2000, I was sent to Lariau (Gulf Province) as assisting priest in the parish and in-charge of the boarding house for primary school students. In 2002, we reopened Don Bosco Araimiri with one class and I was assigned as Principal then and up to now. In 2004, I was appointed rector till now.

When I was an aspirant (DBJ), the mission work in PNG was in initial stages. Several times, superiors and visiting Salesians would talk about the work and show pictures of the place and people. During my pre-novitiate, I began to feel the interest to go to the missions as Salesian missionaries took time to visit the formation house and share about the life in the missions.

However, I have always brushed aside the idea of going inasmuch as I thought myself to be physically unfit. At the same time, I have grown up in the city such that to live in a remote area would be quite incomprehensible. Nevertheless, as a young Salesian, just few months before we were to receive our first obedience (as practical trainees), I wrote to the superiors that I have a desire to the missions and I am making myself available. That time, PNG was entrusted to Manila Province.

I was not selected since in our group there were five who



applied and they needed only two. Eventually, I received my obedience to go to Don Bosco Tondo. After two weeks, I was called by the Provincial (then, Fr. Panfilo) and asked me to go to Don Bosco Badili since the brother presently working there had asked to go back. That was the story behind my life in PNG and how I ended up living and working there.

Many times, my friends would ask me when would I come back to the Philippines or why stay in the missions. Honestly, I would have no comprehensible or even maybe convincing answer to those who ask me.

*The greatest joy in missionary life is when you live a life in concrete paradox because God has called you to be so in order to make Him known to people who are not of your own kind.*

One thing I believe, Missionary life is vocation within a vocation. Just as I have discerned and have been happy in Salesian Life, so too in my missionary life. I believe God asked something more from me. By responding to this belief, I found myself to be happy. One thing important, "I" have answered not anybody else nor situations or dreams compelled me to be so.

Salesian life in the missions is just as challenging as Salesian life here in our country. The joys, pains and challenges in the missions run in a different plane as here in our country. I believe it is wrong to compare them because they flow in different "frequency". However, the call to live in fidelity and salesian witness is the same.

*The greatest joy in missionary life is when*

*you live a life in concrete paradox because God has called you to be so in order to make Him known to people who are not of your own kind. It is that joy of enjoying the pains in life because you believe it is part of actualizing His Plan and Work. It is that joy at the end of the day that you have done His Work not so much you have achieved what you have planned for the day. It is that joy that you are there to witness for Him not to prove yourself. It is that joy to experience the wonders God can do out of your own generosity not because of your capabilities. It is that joy that comes out of fulfillment not out of success. Ultimately, it is that joy from the assurance that it is HIS WORK not mine.*

Inculturation is the greatest challenge in any missionary because it demands a lot of self-denial from all perspectives. It asks for a lot of RESPECT to the people God has equally blessed and whose life and ways of doing things are different from you. This is so difficult because we will never be spared of looking through the spectacle of our own culture and convictions.

I believe, missionary life is more than a matter of achieving pastoral goals or effectivity and/or transforming the people. Rather, it is a matter of patient consistency in being present with them and journeying in their development to fullness of life.

In my experience, I guess, the best gift a missionary can offer to the people is his/her RESPECT to them and the decision to BE WITH THEM (LIVE WITH THEM). Is it not that this is also God's greatest offer to us...HIS RESPECT to us and HIS PRESENCE with us?

Many times, I ask myself "*why there are few people who share their lives for the missions (ad gentes) or find interest in mission work?*" I have my own perceptions to these questions. However, I wish to leave these questions to anybody who reads this article. I just hope that he/she would personally find time to reflect and respond in a concrete way.

**Fr. Pedro Baquero Jr. SDB is the present rector of Don Bosco Araimiri (Gulf Province) in Papua New Guinea. It is the first salesian setting in PNG way back in 1980 until its closure in 1997 and reopening in 2002. It is a secondary school and a parish located in a remote place, in a least developed province. The Salesian community is composed of two priests (Filipino & Indian) and two brothers (Angolan & Vietnamese). Fr. Peter takes time out to share his reflections for the sake of hoping to get some missionary fervor among our readers.**