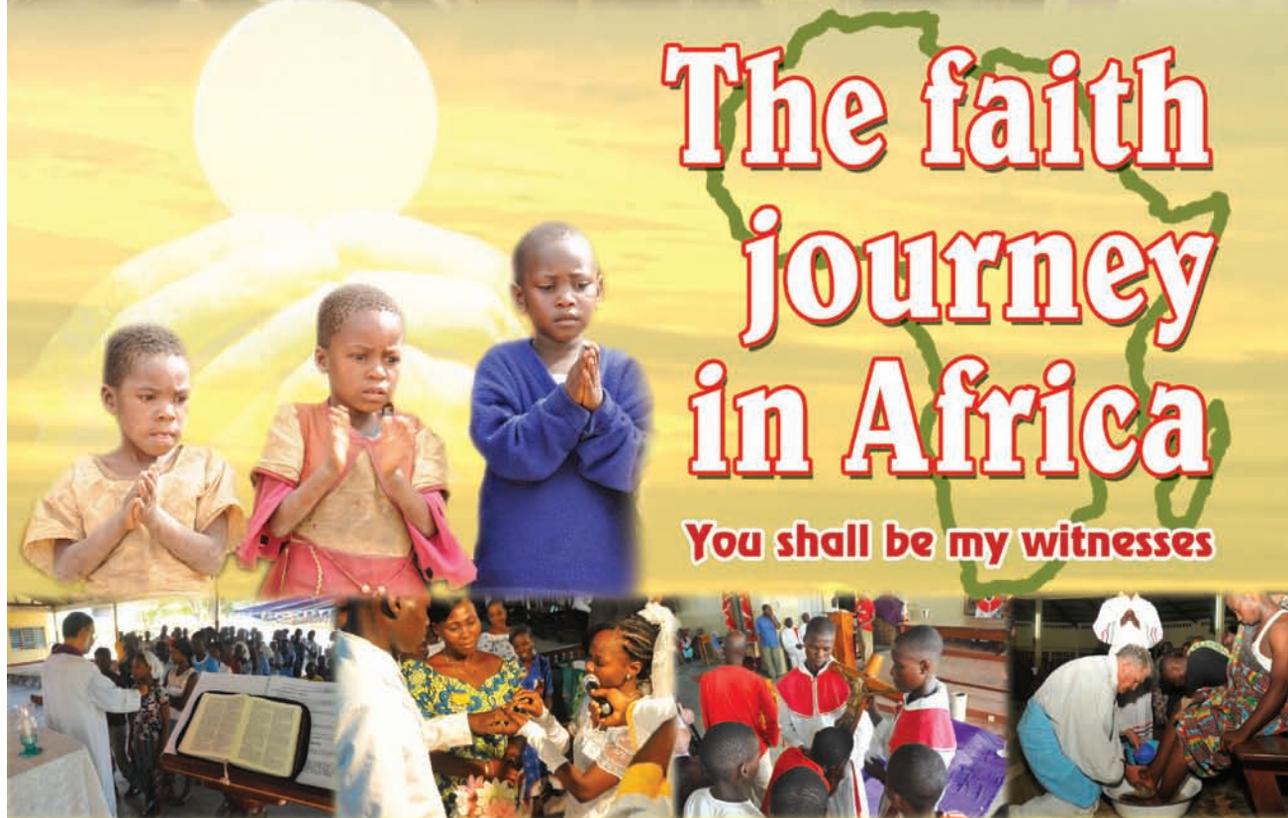


Salesian Mission Day 2013



The faith journey in Africa

You shall be my witnesses



Designed by Bosco Eastern Africa Multimedia Services - BEAMS



SALESIAN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
prepared by the Social Communication Department

www.sdb.org

The poster

The Faith Journey in Africa!

The theme of the Salesian Missions Day is very timely in the context of the Year of Faith proclaimed by the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The celebrations this year necessarily lead to the reflection about the relevance and importance of the initial proclamation of the Gospel, which was also the theme of the SDB-FMA Study Days in all continents in the course of this six-year period (2008-2014). **Initial proclamation is directed not only to those considered as "non-Christians", but also to "those who do not know Christ,"** which include either the unbaptised, or the baptised who do not know Jesus Christ personally. And so today the Church feels its urgency in all continents.

The poster for the Salesian Mission Day 2013 has a big picture of Fr. Victor Mallesha, a Salesian from the Province of East Africa during the rite of Baptism, which shows the link between initial proclamation, the catechumenate and the journey of faith of each person. The background at the centre of the poster is a picture taken in Kenya, just after sunrise, which creates the awareness of a new day and a new life. On this background there is a picture of three children praying as their youthful response to initial proclamation. Behind the children is a silhouette of the Sacred Host as a reminder that this faith journey should lead to the Eucharist.

The four photographs on the lower part of the poster link initial proclamation to Christian initiation through the journey of faith in Africa fostered by the Salesians of Don Bosco, so as to "recover the ardour of the beginnings of the evangelization" (*Africae Munus*, 164) of the African Continent: the Word of God, the celebration of the sacraments, popular devotions and charity, symbolically represented by the rite of the washing of the feet. This is why the material in this booklet can serve as examples or models for the Salesians and lay people who are in other continents.

This poster was made by Fr. Sebastian Koladiyil SDB and his team of collaborators at the BEAMS (Bosco Eastern Africa Multimedia Services) studios of the Salesian Province of Eastern Africa.

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All the material in: Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese and French is available also on DVD and can be downloaded from the site www.sdb.org

Rector Major's Letter

27 May 2012, Pentecost Sunday

**Dear Confreres
and Friends of the Salesian Missions,**

I greet you on this Pentecost Sunday with the heart of a disciple of Jesus that feels God's love today personally, and wants to share it with others.

For the 26th time the Rector Major is offering the Congregation a mission theme to help make known the involvement of confreres, and so open their eyes and hearts to new mission opportunities. In 2013 our attention turns to the African continent, where thanks to the missionary efforts of many Provinces through *Project Africa* (1978-2005), most of the confreres working in this region today are local: about 1000

African Salesians! The freshness in faith of the young Churches, now making up some 150 million faithful, has really become a spiritual lung for all humankind.

As I do each year, I would like to point out the deeper reasons for Salesian Mission Day, which has already found a place in the educative and pastoral planning of many provinces.

1. Returning to Don Bosco – walking with young people in faith

In our second year of preparation for the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth we are invited to come to an understanding of his pedagogy. In the four Lives he wrote about his boys: Luigi Comollo, Dominic Savio,

Francis Besucco and Michael Magone, Don Bosco offers concrete models of disciples of Jesus to his sons who are educators to faith of young people.

The Salesian society is the result of a simple catechism lesson (cf. Const. SDB 34). We are aware that if a Salesian takes up his vocation and mission as catechist again after many years, he renews his sense of faith and being an educator to faith of the young. The theme of SMD 2013 aims to help us be more available as spiritual companions of the young, so that in the first instance we return to the practice of personal spiritual direction as part of being faithful to our calling. The photo of Don Bosco hearing the confession of a future successor, young Paul Albera, is a highly symbolic one for us.

2. Evangelising the Salesian heart during the Year of Faith

We also find ourselves in the context of the Year of Faith (11 October 2012 – 29 June 2013). In these words, on 16 October 2011, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted its real motivation: *I think that after half a century since the opening of the Council, tied to the happy memory of Blessed Pope John XXIII, it is appropriate to recall the beauty and centrality of the faith, the need to strengthen it and deepen it on a personal and community level, and to do so not in a celebratory perspective, but rather a missionary one, the mission "ad gentes" and new evangelisation.*

The theme of SMD 2013 helps us understand the urgency of the personal journey of faith, one that can never cease. We are disciples on the road and we seek daily, more and more, to follow the Master. If our heart is not evangelised we cannot become evangelisers of the young who are waiting

for us, and we will not be able to animate our catechists in their important role.

3. Opening our hearts to missionary frontiers

One way of strengthening a mission culture is to disseminate information about the missions in an attractive way, each day. Thanks to the many video products around the Salesian world, like for example those from *Missioni Don Bosco* (Turin) the Congregation and the Salesian Family is up to date with missionary life today. Every year some 15 DVDs are sent out to 53 TV stations and 4000 Salesian Houses (SDB and FMA) in 133 countries around the world. Visiting Salesian communities, however, I have seen two extremes: in some cases the cassettes remain in their plastic wrap, while in others the DVDs are copied and set around to leaders and catechists in all the mission stations or basic communities and large parishes. There are some communities that watch a brief mission video every week. SMD 2013 offers five short videos on the journey of faith, in seven languages - Italian, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Polish and German – and these can help communities rediscover this great wealth of our Congregation. Dozens of films on the missions within close reach!

My dear friends, I invite you to accept the challenge of helping the young to embark on the journey of faith and walk with them as patient catechists. Thank you for your courageous response to his final invitation ... *You will be my witnesses!* (Acts 1:8), entrusting this Salesian Mission Day 2013 to the guidance and protection of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Affectionately, in Don Bosco
Pascual Chávez V.
Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva
Rector Major



Letter from the Regional Councillor for Africa and Madagascar and the Councillor for the Missions

27 May 2012, Pentecost Sunday

Hearts filled with Easter joy, we offer a greeting of peace and joy to all confreres!

In a special way we greet all Salesians on the front line, sharing their experience of the Risen Jesus with young people from many cultures and religions in every continent. We are convinced that your testimony is the best image of Don Bosco today. For every Salesian, Pentecost is an invitation to grow in the missionary dimension of our Charism!

We present you with animation materials for the **26th Salesian Mission Day (SMD) 2013 – The Faith Journey in Africa!** It is the result of teamwork by the 12 Provinces and Vice Provinces of the Africa – Madagascar Region and the Departments for the Missions and Social Communication.

Many Salesians ask us what we want to achieve each year through the SMD.

The first beneficiaries of Salesian Mission Day are ourselves, the Salesians of Don Bosco. We are invited to make Benedict XVI's belief our own: *The first poverty of peoples is that of not knowing Christ!*. With this clear, it is possible to indicate three specific aims of Salesian Mission Day 2013:

1. Learning from young African Churches – lungs of the Universal Church

In his recent post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Africae Munus* the Pope reminded us once again that Africa is, for the world and the Church *a spiritual lung* (no.13;177). In his address to the Roman Curia on 22 December 2011: *Encountering this faith that is so ready to sacrifice and so full of happiness is a powerful remedy against fatigue with Christianity such as we are experiencing in Europe today.*

In many countries around the world, in fact, we have already forgotten that the Church can generate new children through the journey of the catechumenate. The fresh stories of young catechists and their young catechumens in Africa challenges us. The more than 147 million Catholics in Africa (2011), with a growth rate of 6.5 million a year, is a sign of vitality and hope. Salesian Mission Day 2013 then is a further invitation to be more attentive to the Church, truly Catholic and Universal. We are being called to get to know the most beautiful face of the African Church today.

So we invite all provincial communities to listen to the experiences of the young African Churches which are still little known. We also invite young people in Mission groups and Volunteer movements to let themselves be inspired by the Christian initiation of their peers, catechists or young catechumens in Africa.

2. Compare yourselves with the young African catechist

In many areas of the continent there are young Churches, many of them have barely a century of evangelisation behind them. In most cases Baptism is received at a young age. They would normally go through the catechumenate journey for Christian initiation, which culminates in their receiving the three sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In many dioceses there is an effort to develop this process of Christian initiation in line with their traditional ways, very much alive in many parts and cultures of Africa. The catechist in African dioceses is not only the one giving catechism lessons, but the leader of the Christian community, especially in rural areas. In places where it is difficult for the priest to get to, they are the ones who lead community prayer, prepare people for the sacraments, administer development and finance in the community. In many cases they are the true guardians of the faith and the Church, to the point of martyrdom.

Benedict XVI says in *Africae Munus*: *Catechists are invaluable pastoral agents in the mission of evangelization. Their role was very important during the first evangelization, the preparation of catechumens and the direction and support of communities. In a natural way they brought about a successful inculturation that has produced marvellous fruits (cfr Mk 4:20). Catechists have allowed their "light to shine before men" (Mt 5:16), because seeing the good that they do, whole populations were able to give glory to our*

Father in heaven. Indeed, Africans have evangelized Africans". This role so important in the past, remains essential for the present and the future of the Church. I thank them for their love of the Church (no.125). As Salesians of Don Bosco, in our lives as missionaries of the young in every province, let's compare ourselves with the zeal of young catechists in Africa!

3. SMD 2013 – Formation of catechists and catechetics materials

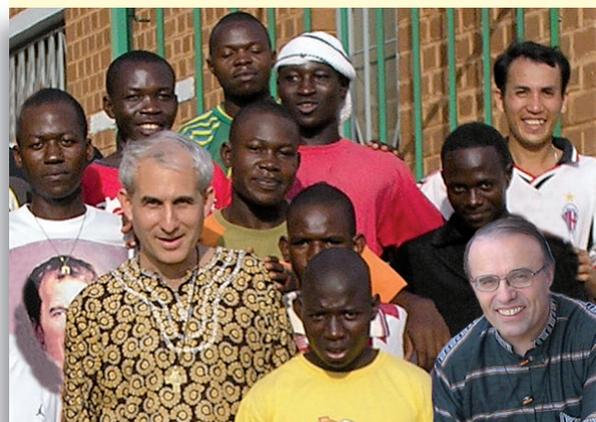
Catechist formation and publishing catechetical materials in local languages do not feature regularly in projects for mission support in our provinces. The audiovisual material for SMD 2013 focuses on three experiences in the journey of faith (Angola, Tanzania and Togo). The support project for this year aims at collecting funds for catechist formation (volunteers, full time) and producing catechetical materials in local languages in the three provinces of ANG, AFE, AFO. Each province is invited to send any contributions collected during the SMD 2013 campaign to the *Fondazione Don Bosco nel Mondo* (see p. 29).

Finally, we thank all confreres in the African provinces involved in preparing these materials. As a sign of the close collaboration of the Departments for the Salesian mission, we are especially grateful to those in the Social Communication Department and Don Bosco Media - Eurofilm Turin.

Warm greetings then, with a special prayer for help from Mary our Mother and Help of all Salesians, lay partners and young people who walk together with the young towards Jesus Christ!

Fr. Václav Klement
Councillor for the Missions

Fr. Guillermo Basañes
Councillor for Africa – Madagascar Region



Salesian Mission Day a continuing tradition

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Since 1988 a mission theme has been offered to the entire Congregation. All Salesian communities are invited to get to know about a mission situation in a particular continent.

It is a powerful occasion for Mission Animation in Salesian communities at the local and Province levels, youth Groups, in the Salesian Family. Is not an isolated event but rather a chance to involve SDB communities and educative - pastoral communities in the dynamics of the universal Church, *strengthening a missionary culture*.

WHY?

To give an impetus to Mission Animation by offering a proposal that can become an annual practical project and help the entire Salesian Family to know about the Congregation's commitment to the missions and open its eyes to new mission situations, overcoming every temptation to shut oneself off in one's own place and to remember the universal outreach of the Salesian charism.

Activities aimed at promoting interest in the missions must always be geared to these specific goals; namely, informing and forming the People of God to share in the Church's universal mission, promoting vocations ad gentes and encouraging cooperation in the work of evangelisation (John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio, 83).

WHEN?

There is no fixed date for SMD. Each Province can choose a date or time best suited to its own calendar and rhythm of events. Some traditional dates in the Provinces (near to the Feast of Don Bosco, or his birthday in August, Lent, the Feast of the Holy Salesian Missionary Martyrs, Luigi

Versiglia and Callisto Caravario; the month of May; the missionary month of October; or 11 November). It is above all important to offer a educational – pastoral programme of several weeks – for which Salesian Mission Day provides the culmination. SMD is an expression of the missionary spirit of the whole Educative-Pastoral Community kept alive throughout the years by various initiatives.

HOW?

Starting from a meeting of rectors, where the Delegate for Mission Animation explains the purpose and delivers the tools available for the SMD in the Province (Province website or a link to www.sdb.org - SMD). Thus, all the SDB communities are the first recipients of the dynamics of SMD. By focusing attention each year on a continent and a concrete aspect of missionary culture; by praying for missionaries and by collecting concrete support for projects presented in the materials for SMD. The celebration of the SMD ought to be a festive occasion, able to enthuse the participants about the mission activity.

WHO?

The primary recipient is the Salesian community. Then, depending on each Province, there are various ways of organizing the SMD which is open to the whole Salesian movement and friends of Don Bosco (Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils, ADMA Groups etc), depending on the setting of the Salesian mission (schools, vocational training centers, parishes, youth groups, missionary and volunteer work of the Salesian Family).

IN WHAT PARTICULAR WAY?

The Missions Department offers material for all the Salesian communities: a Poster, printed materi-

als, a DVD with short films on the theme, a CD with the texts, photos in various languages, and other digital material throughout the year, which can be down-loaded from www.sdb.org (SMD 2013) and the video which is also available in You Tube. For further copies of the material it is sufficient to write to the Missions Department (cagliero11@gmail.com).

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER FOR MISSIONS

All members of the Educative-Pastoral Community live the missionary concern of their faith by offering their cooperation in the mission activity of the Congregation through prayer accompanied by sacrifices for Salesian missionaries and

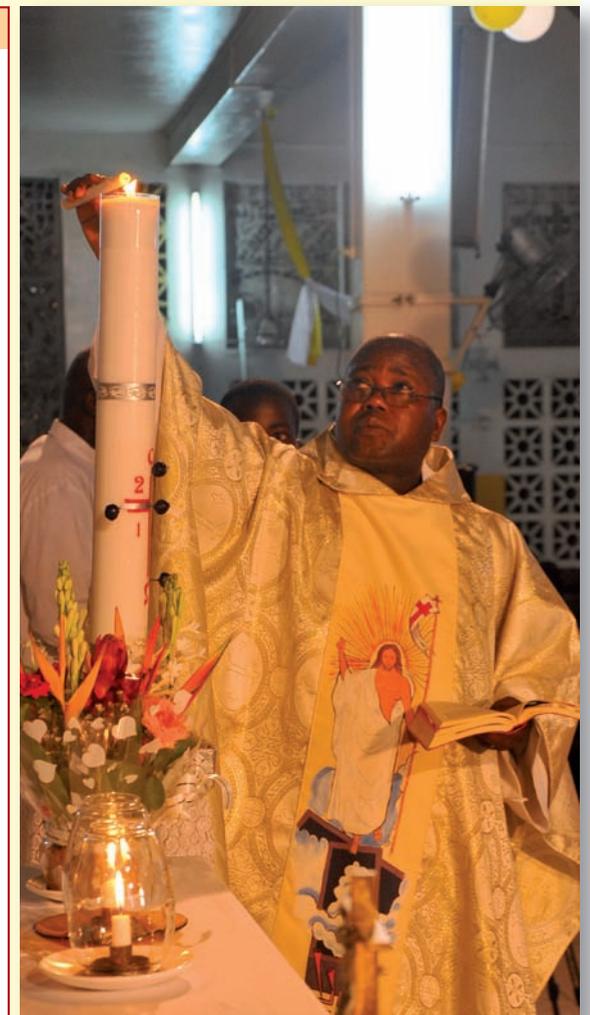
especially for Salesian missionary vocations every 11 of the month. Each year, a prayer is composed according to the theme of the SMD and each month a Salesian Missionary Intention is proposed in order to emphasise the importance of this spiritual dimension of missionary activity.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment after the SMD is as important as the preparation and the celebration. What needs to be considered is how the SMD has been able to foster a missionary culture in the local or Province community through the topic proposed taking into account any suggestions for future improvements.

Salesian Mission Day 1988 - 2014

1988	Guinea - Conakry: The dream continues
1989	Zambia: Lufubu Project
1990	Timor Leste - Venilale: Young evangelisers
1991	Paraguay: Street children
1992	Peru - Christ lives in the steps of the Incas
1993	Togo-Kara: Don Bosco and Africa
1994	Cambodia: Missionaries builders of peace
1995	India - Gujarat: In dialogue sharing the faith
1996	Russia - Yakutsk: Lights of hope in Siberia
1997	Madagascar: Boy, I say to you, get up
1998	Brazil - Yanomami: New life in Christ
1999	Japan: The difficult proclamation of Christ
2000	Angola: Gospel seed of reconciliation
2001	Papua New Guinea: Walking with the young
2002	Missionaries among the refugees worldwide
2003	Salesian commitment to human development and evangelisation
2004	India - Arunachal Pradesh: A People awakes
2005	Mongolia: A new missionary frontier
2006	Sudan: The Salesian mission in Sudan
2007	Sudan: The Salesian mission in Sudan
2008	HIV/AIDS: The Salesian response – educating for life
2009	Keep alive your missionary flame
2010	Europe: The Salesians walking with the Gypsies
2011	America: Volunteers proclaiming the Gospel
2012	Asia: Telling the story of Jesus
2013	Africa: The Faith Journey
2014	Europe: Salesians walking with migrants



SMD How was it celebrated?

Report of best practices 2010-2012

RELAUNCHING THE SMD

One of the main challenges is launching SMD in a Province where for various reasons it has never been celebrated or where the practice has not yet become part of the missionary culture. Various Provinces have re-launched the tradition of Salesian Mission Day in different ways. Among the more effective strategies has been that of introducing the theme in a well-prepared manner at meetings of Rectors (parish priests, headteachers, directors of oratories, youth centres), where the Provincial Delegate for Youth Ministry or the one responsible for Mission Animation explains the reasons behind it and distributes material received from Rome or other material adapted and produced *in loco* (PLN, SUO). Others have already produced each year a series of Good Nights or Good Mornings for the different age groups or locations (school, oratory, youth

groups or homilies – SMA). It is very significant that so many Provinces have made great efforts in getting the material translated into their own languages (CIN, GIA, KOR, Poland, CEP, CRO, SLK etc).

WHEN?

Each Province or Provincial Conference is free to choose a day or a period most suitable for them. Some of the days chosen in the last three years have been: Sunday after the Memorial of Blessed Luigi Variara (January – Italy), close to the Feast of the missionary proto-martyrs SS. Luigi Versiglia and Callisto Caravario (Poland - Piła), after Easter (Spain), the missionary month of October, 11th November. A fixed date in the Province calendar has made it possible to have a more effective educative – pastoral period of preparation in the individual communities.

HOW IS IT ORGANISED?

To ensure that all the SDB communities are those primarily aimed at for SMD activities, the Province Delegate for Mission Animation sends the communities various sets of material produced by the Province Team for Mission Animation (SDB, FMA, leaders and missionary volunteers – Italy, Turin).

Each year concentrating attention on one of the Continents and on a practical aspect of missionary culture the Provinces directly involved in the preparation of the material benefit by their own effort at animation:

2010 – The Provinces of Slovakia SLK, Czech Republic and Bulgaria – CEP; Hungary – UNG: who have a mission for the Gypsies;

2011 – Many Provinces re-launched or consol-



idated their organisation of missionary groups or of mission voluntary service (CIL, MEM, MEG, SLK);

2012 – Various Provinces in Asia for the first time became fully aware of the missionary directives of the First Missionary Congress of Asia – Chiang Mai, 2006;

2013 – Seven Provinces of Africa involved in the preparation or collection of various forms of material have profited from this for the animation of missionary groups or of youth catechesis.

WHO CELEBRATED?

Various formation communities (UPS – Gerini) have undertaken mission animation during Lent collecting funds for the SMD Project.

A novitiate in Asia contributed by uploading on YouTube all the nine videos of 2012 SMD *Telling the Story of Jesus* as part of their apostolate.

Various missionary groups of young people have made use of it for their formation before the activities during the special seasons (Christmas, Easter) by means of short videos (DVD 1).

WHAT METHODS?

Various Provinces have translated into their own languages and adapted the material produced by the Sector for the Missions and by Social Communication. Other Provinces on the other hand, have received more copies of the material according to their requests to the Sector for the Missions in Rome (DVD, poster, prayer and teaching aids).

PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONS AT THE CENTRE?

The prayer composed each year according to the theme of the SMD has been distributed to all the confreres (committed lay people, animators or mission volunteers).

ASSESSMENT?

Many Provinces have carried out an assessment of the SMD very well. With great satisfaction as a result of the assessment some Provinces have re-launched missionary groups or voluntary service, others have encouraged the Rectors, and others have decided to adapt the material to the situation of their country.



AFRICAЕ MUNUS - Post synodal exhortation of Benedict XVI

Second Assembly of the Bishops on Africa

The first Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops was held in 1994. The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation (John Paul II, 1995) *Ecclesia in Africa*, presents the Church in Africa as the *Family of God*. The second Assembly held in 2009, has as the Post-Synodal document the Exhortation *Africae Munus*, signed by Pope Benedict during his visit to Benin (Africa) in November 2011. The work of the Synod in 2009 concentrated on the church in Africa, at the service of **reconciliation**, of **social justice** and of **peace**: *You are the salt of the earth, you are the light of the world* (Mt 5, 13.14). Taking part at the 2009 Synod were seven Salesians (a Cardinal, four Bishops and two priests). At present in the Africa – Madagascar Region there are eight Salesian Bishops: four Africans and four missionaries from the other continents.

CHRISTIAN, BUILDERS OF A NEW AFRICA

Unfortunately Africa is often known internationally only as the continent of wars, poverty and disasters. Paradoxically it is that part of the Catholic Church which is growing with more vitality. The appeal of the Pope and of the Synod Fathers on this occasion was that of making the Catholics in Africa more the protagonists in a social and cultural transformation, starting from the Gospel, which is marked by reconciliation, by justice and by peace.

Christian and Catholic Africa has a wealth of spiritual and religious sentiment, of love for prayer and for the sacrament, of holiness and even of martyrdom. However – and this is the main point made by the Synod and by the Post - Synodal Exhortation – it is still a long



Servizio fotografico dell'Osservatore Romano

way from being able to respond to the social challenges of the 54 countries which make up this vast continent. Therefore, *Africae Munus* is fundamentally a heartfelt appeal for social commitment by the Church in Africa. The centrality of the Social Teaching of the Church is essential. So that the Church in Africa might become – *Church, Family of God reconciled and reconciling* – it has to take the path of conversion to the gospel with courage and with generosity, and this beginning with its own leaders (bishops, priests, consecrated persons, catechists, committed lay people).

US, SALESIANS

For us, sons of Don Bosco, this voice which speaks to the Churches of Africa – through the Successor of Peter and its Pastors – is very enlightening and encouraging. In fact it encourages us to be authentic evangelisers in Africa of the young through education. A quick glance at some of the typical words in our charismatic and missionary vocabulary to be found in the text of *Africae Munus* makes us immediately aware how much the Church and the Pope expect from the Salesians in Africa. For example:

– **Young people** (n. 60-64) - *This youthfulness is a gift and a treasure from God...* (n 60). *Dear young people, enticements of all kinds may tempt you: ideologies, sects, money, drugs, casual sex, violence... I encourage you to place Jesus Christ at the centre of your lives...*(n. 63);

– **Education** (n. 134-138) - *... to receive schooling: this is a matter of justice for each child and indeed the future of Africa* (n.134), *... Catholic communities and institutions will only be able to meet this challenge (of education) if they maintain their ecclesial identity and remain zeal-*

ously faithful to the Gospel message and the charism of their founder.(n.77);

– **Evangelization** (n.159-171; 173-174)- *The missio ad gentes calls for commitment on the part of all Africa's Christians.* (n.162); *Get up, Church in Africa... because you are being called by the heavenly Father, whom your ancestors invoked as Creator even before knowing his merciful closeness revealed in his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Set out on the path of a new evangelization with the courage that comes to you from the Holy Spirit.* (n.173);

– **Catechesis** - *Through profound catechesis and inculturation, the Church in Africa needs to help people to discover the fullness of Gospel values.* (n.93). *It is right, then, to maintain a living connection between memorized catechism and lived catechesis, which leads to a profound and permanent conversion of life.* (n.32)



Don Bosco's African face

35 years of *Project Africa* (1978 - 2013)

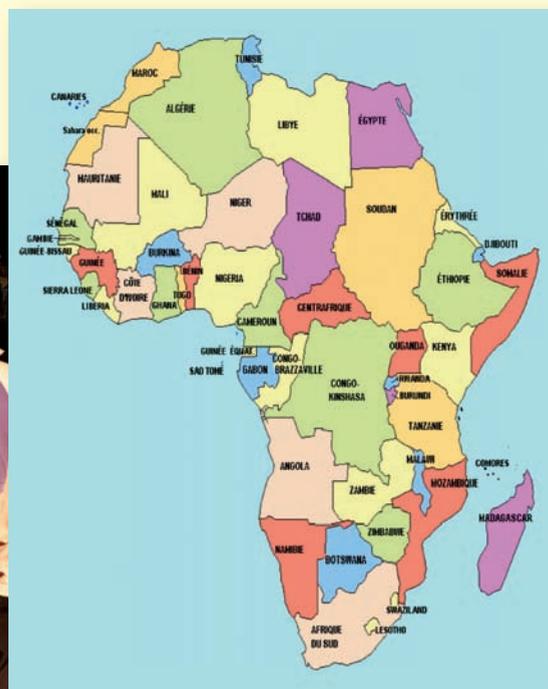
Looking back over the epic realisation of *Project Africa*, it must be evident to everyone that nothing would have been possible unless the Lord had chosen to work through our confreres. Fr Viganò launched *Project Africa* in response to inspiration from above, as he used say, and truly, an invisible hand guided us along rapid and secure paths so that it could all become a stupendous reality.

Some important factors which contributed to the success of this Project:

a) The speed with which we were able to spread throughout Africa was due to the enthusiasm with which the Provinces greeted the Rector Major's invitation to be part of the Project. This aroused great missionary enthusiasm across the whole Congregation. One can really say it was a project belonging to the whole Congrega-

tion. It is one of the best examples of the Congregation working as one at world level to carry out a common project. It can of course provide a stimulus for other projects.

b) The generosity and spirit of sacrifice of the missionaries deserves our admiration. Many of them faced serious difficulties starting from scratch and fitting in to the places they were sent to. They faced all these problems with courage and persevered, despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Many of these pioneers are still actively at work in various parts of Africa. This is a sign of their love for the African people and their identification with the African cause.



- c) Financial aid provided from the mother provinces, from various Salesian Mission Offices, from NGOs, and the thousand ways in which Divine Providence helped us are another factor. Don Bosco's assurance that while we are working for the poor and for the salvation of souls, Divine Providence will never abandon us, was carried out to the letter during *Project Africa*.
- d) The Congregation now has an African face. The number of African Salesians is in constant growth. This is due to our confreres' commitment to seeking local vocations right from the outset of the Project. The result is that we have well-organised formation structures across the Region and there are more than 100 novices annually. All this is possible with a good vocation ministry plan.

Project Africa, result of the Congregation working together (Fr Chávez, AGC 399 (2007 September), Rector Major's Letter "I came that you may have life and have it in abundance" (Jn 10:10b) *Presentation of the Africa-Madagascar region*



SALESIAN HOUSES OPENED IN AFRICA FROM 1979 - 2012

- 1979 Monrovia
- 1980 Malabo, Tambacaunda, Johannesburg, Robertsham, Maputsoe, Dodoma, Iringa, Mafinga, Korr
- 1981 Tappita, Ankililoaka, Bemaneviky, Mahanjanga, Tulear, Duéqoué, Porto Novo, Sikasso, Touba, Dondo, Luena, Goma
- 1982 Akure, Ondo, Ljely, Korhogo, Lomè, Malkerns, Luanda, Nairobi-Upperhill, Dilla
- 1983 Ebolowa, Chingola, Luwingu, Parakou, Kazembe, Moatse
- 1984 Ivato, Oyem, Lusaka, Embu
- 1985 Mikoneseng, Bamako, Kara, Wau, Abrigat
- 1986 Lungi, Conakry, Cononou, Kankan, Thies, Karthoum, Mafinga, Makuyu, Nairobi, Nairobi-Utrume, Zway
- 1987 Betafo, Kandi, Calulu, Mafinga
- 1988 Onithsa, Lomé, Dodoma, Kinshasa-Luckunga, ospedale Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi-Studentat, Adua
- 1989 Bombo, Addis Abeba-Gotera
- 1990 Ivato, Lusaka, Cintasse
- 1991 Abijan-Koumasi, Luanda
- 1992 Sunyani, Brazzaville, Yaounde, N'Dalatando, Moshi, Nzaikoni
- 1993 Fianarantsoa, Bobo-Dioulasso, Osterbay, Shinyanga, Moambe
- 1994 Bangui, Lomé, Naitobi-Boys Home, Lubumbashi-Tabaconda
- 1995 Sarh, Harare, Lilongwe, Luanda-Lixeira, Famuli, Bujumbura, Lubumbashi-Bacania, Mbuji-Mayi, Dekemhare, Ashaima
- 1997 Nkhotakota, Shambyu, Lufubu, Rynfield, Benguela, Luanda, Goma-Ngangi, Lubumbashi-Procura
- 1998 Tulear, D'jamena, Lubumbashi-Jacaranda, Mekanissa
- 1999 Kinshasa, Debrezeit, Matunda
- 2000 Rosenhill-Mauritius, Bangui, Yaunde, Kakuma, Kabgayi, Gatenga, El Obeid, Nairobi-Dybes
- 2001 Liana
- 2002 Mansa, St. Louis, Kinshasa-Mansina, Uvira, Gambela
- 2003 Ambohitratino, Hwabgasin, Hwange, Kabwe, Lubumbashi-Ruashi
- 2004 Addis Abeba - St. Joseph, Bujumbura, Kinshasa - Maria Ausiliatrice, Lubumbashi - Ferme Jacaranda, Ennerdale, Viana
- 2005 Butare, El Obeid, Ibadan, Yaoundé - Teologato,
- 2006 Asmara, Ashaiman, Freetown, Sunyani, Port Louis
- 2007 Adamitullu, Tonj, Wau, Kamuli
- 2008 Kakuma, Dakar, Ebolowa
- 2009 Morogoro
- 2010 Juba, Kigali, Lusaka - Makeni, Nkhotakota
- 2011 Porto Novo - Tokpota
- 2012 Shire, Soddo

Since the beginning of *Project Africa* (according to the 21st General Chapter 1978) and until 2003, 139 new Don Bosco centres were founded. Amongst these at least 45 offer trade education in agriculture and manufacturing. At present there are more than 900 African Salesians.

The Faith Journey in Africa!



A precious treasure is to be found in the soul of Africa, where I perceive a "spiritual 'lung' for a humanity that appears to be in a crisis of faith and hope", on account of the extraordinary human and spiritual riches of its children, its variegated cultures, its soil and sub-soil of abundant resources. (Africae Munus, 13)

Africa, often seen as a continent of wars and poverty, is a land with a thousand faces. Its main resource is its people, rich in tradition, who look to the future with dignity and determination. The Missions Department is dedicating Salesian Mission Day 2013 to the black continent.

It is an invitation to get to know better the peculiarities of this land and especially what the Salesians are accomplishing there today.

Don Bosco's charism in Africa

There are distant roots to the Salesian presence in Africa. Don Bosco had received several requests, but it was Don Rua, his first successor, who sent the first Salesians there. Continuing the founder's plan, he supported and developed the activities of the growing Congregation, including Africa in his plans for its expansion.

In 1891 the first Salesians, from France, led by Fr Charles Bellamy, arrived in Algeria to begin the foundation of the St Aloysius Oratory. Then came Tunisia, Egypt, South Africa, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Morocco, ...

But the turning point came after the 21st General Chapter, when Don Bosco's 7th successor, Fr Egidio Viganò, launched Project Africa in the 1980s.

Some provinces were asked to send confreres and support works in Kenya, Lesotho, Senegal, Tanzania and other African countries.

The Salesian presence in this vast continent is undoubtedly the result of this grand project which the Congregation and the Salesian Family have carried out. Today there are some 1500 Salesians in Africa; most of them are Africans and are Don Bosco's African face! Currently the Salesians of Don Bosco are in 43 out of 54 countries that make up Africa. The project lasted for 25 years: from 1980 when first launched, to 2006, when Don Bosco's 9th successor, Fr Pascual Chávez Villanueva, during the Team Visit to the Africa Madagascar region, declared that it was complete.

The catechumenate: journey of faith

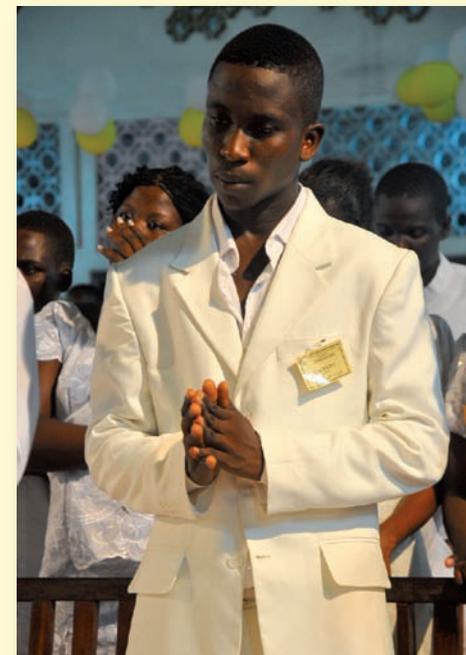
Salesian Mission Day, besides helping us get to know about Salesian work in a continent, also offers us a way of more deeply understanding a theme. The focus for 2013 is the catechumenate as it is experienced and offered in Africa.

The slogan chosen by the Missions Department is "the journey of faith in Africa" and it helps highlight a number of topics:

- **Evangelization of the young** seen as part of Salesian education. Don Bosco used say, referring to the beginnings of his work, that it all began as a work of catechetics.
- **The catechumenate** experienced as a journey of education to faith; a learning process, and one of understanding and witness which the Christian is called to experience while preparing for the Sacraments of initiation.

And finally, the **role of the catechist**, witness and educator in Christian living; a significant role which is important in the ministry of the African Church.

Africa is undoubtedly a continent of life: statistics describe it as a young continent, average age is twenty. Despite war and sickness, which can wipe out whole generations, the youthful presence is numerous and lively. What we offer as Christians and Salesians is accepted seriously and enthusiastically.





The faith in Africa - Tanzania

Makalala catechist school

When I told my parish priest I wanted to be a catechist he answered by saying that he would ask the Catechist Centre at Makalala. When I arrived here I began to learn about things of the Spirit, of faith and my faith began to grow; it has helped me to go out and proclaim God's Word to everyone. (Yoanne)

South of Dar Es Salam, capital of Tanzania, we find the region of Iringa which in the local Hewe language means "strong". It is an extensive region covering 57 thousand square meters, and lies some 1500 metres above sea level. The Christian Faith was brought here by German Benedictine missionaries in October 1896. Then with the advent of the First World War, the Consolata Missionaries arrived. Over the years the seeds of the Gospel have grown thanks to the

work of priests, religious, but especially lay catechists, true missionaries and witnesses to the Word.

In Iringa diocese, following the first century of the Gospel's proclamation, a second evangelization is under way. The diocese, along with others in Tanzania, has two challenges to face up to: the scarce number of priests and the extent of rural areas. The response to these challenges, now strengthened by long tradition, is the activity of the lay catechists. In many African dioceses the catechists are important for Christian ministry and play a fundamental role.

Catechists are called to be first evangelizers in their families, in small rural Christian communities, in mission stations and parishes.

They are workers of evangelization and catechetical ministry leaving the priests to



administer the sacraments. To carry out their task, catechists need a specific, proper preparation. The Catechist Formation Centre at Makalala does this through a two year residential course. There are lessons in the Bible, morals, Church teaching, introduction to psychology and methodology, maths, civic education, Swahili, the national language, and English. At Makalala the Salesians, along with the Missionary Sisters of St Teresa of the Infant Jesus from Iringa and Tosamaganga dioceses, have created a formation environment focused on sharing daily life. The academic course also has gradual involvement in practical activities through guided apostolate which is followed up by those in charge of the Centre. To qualify as catechists, the young students at Makalala not only try to do well in their studies, but they also have to put up with sacrifices. Emmanuela, for example, has had to leave her family for a time and leave her 10

year old with relatives so she could focus on the course properly. *I am happy – she says – to learn the catechesis about Jesus Christ, and have learned so much about him from the lessons, since earlier I knew little but now I know Jesus and thank God for this.* Pope Benedict XVI wrote: *Catechists are very valuable pastoral workers in the mission of evangelization. Their role has been very important for first evangelization, accompanying the catechumens, in leading and supporting communities. They have carried out a natural work of successful enculturation which has brought wonderful results. It is the catechists who have let their "light shine before men", because seeing the good they do, whole peoples have been able to give glory to Our Father in heaven. Africans have evangelized Africans. This role, so important in the past, is also essential for the present and future of the Church.* (Africae Munus 125)

The faith in Africa - Angola

There is leaven in Luanda



Through profound catechesis and inculturation, the Church in Africa needs to help people to discover the fullness of Gospel values. (Africae Munus 93)

Since they came to Angola, Salesians have been involved in fostering basic human values, evangelization and the Salesian charism. The historical context soon had them facing challenges. Fr Martin Lasarte says: *The context of Angola is quite special. We Salesians have been here in Angola for almost 30 years. It was very difficult at the beginning because of the war and the communist era during which the Salesians were forbidden to operate educational works: we could only work in parishes. This is why our centres developed parish catechetics so much.*

Luanda, capital of Angola, with more than 5 million inhabitants, is a city full of life. Just as for the whole country, 60% of the population is under 20.

After 2 decades one can still see the signs of the civil war. The most evident one are the vast outskirts where millions of Angolans, having left the hinterland, have built dwellings.

The Salesians, faithful to their charism, are involved in activities of education and evangelization through literacy, technical training and catechetics. They have two large parishes in Luanda, each with centres for gathering people and catechetics for the youth: St Paul's parish and St Joseph of Nazareth parish.

In 2012 a total of more than 10,800 catechumens have attended 21 formation centres and 637 catechists have been involved.

In St Paul's parish, following directions from the Archdiocese of Luanda, the formation course for sacraments of initiation lasts 4 years. The first year of pre-catechumenate, is an introduction to the mystery of God. The course then continues with the first year of catechumenate which begins with the sign of the cross and then ends with them being given the symbol of the apostles: the Creed.

The catechumens are given the kerygma in the course of this year: the good news of Jesus of Nazareth.

In the second year the Church, the face of Christ, and his mystery, is presented. At the end of this they are given the prayer of the Our Father. The final year focuses on the sacraments of Christian initiation and personal commitment.

In order to take in all the catechumens, St Paul's parish has an agreement with some State schools who make some of their classrooms available on Saturdays. A pastoral choice has been to ask catechumens, as they grow in faith, to get involved in a group. This also helps involve young people after Confirmation. Fr Stefano Tolu explains it; he is in charge of the Good Shepherd community, which is part of St Paul's parish. All those who should receive the sacrament and are 17 or older have to take on community service in one of the areas belonging to our church community. What does this do? It brings an awareness of the living Christ amongst us and we have had some pleasant surprises.

In St Joseph of Nazareth parish in the "Lixeira slum" - in Portuguese it means a rubbish dump - Salesians face two great challenges: forming the many catechists and the daily situation for many young people, which is difficult. Fr Santiago Boix says: *... whoever attends catechetics has to make sacrifices and for their beliefs they have to overcome many difficulties, like lack of time, money, other problems. Our young peoples' journey of growth in faith and spirituality begins with work on the outskirts, where youngsters in our works have various ways of entering the journey. Many come to us through sport - capoeira, football, basketball - others come from other Salesian communities through school, many are Catholics but others are from other faiths and want to understand their faith. Others still come from literacy centres or youth groups in our small communities. Many come directly through the catechumenate, asking to grow in faith. But all this work here begins from work in the outer suburbs.*





The faith in Africa - Angola Workers in the harvest

The Church has entrusted me with 104 communities. For me it is an experience of growth, so enriching because of the example I receive from the catechists, especially those in charge of leading the community in prayer, catechesis, works of charity. Seeing these brothers of ours, with so many difficulties, especially surviving day by day in their work in the fields, seeing that they have the faith and constancy to pray daily, invite other people to pray... it is real witness for me! (Fr José Francisco López)

In Angola there are eleven Salesian works and some presences being developed. The work of education and evangelization is a busy one both in populated and rural centres. Moving away from Luanda, towards the south east, are two Salesian works, one in Dondo and the other in Calulo. Besides the activities – aspi-

rantate, literacy and trade schools – there is a work of evangelization and catechesis that spreads out over hundreds of kilometres. The parishes belonging to these two works each have about a hundred small Christian communities, far apart and spread over a wide area.

There are two key players in Christian life in these centres: the catechist and the priest. The first leads in prayer, sacramental preparation, leads celebrations of the Word; the second periodically visits the communities and administers the sacraments, especially Penance and Eucharist.

Communities are visited occasionally by the missionaries. Their arrival is always cause for much happiness and heartfelt celebrations like Eucharist or preparatory rites for Baptism especially during Holy Week.

Fr Agustín Pascualini is 72 years old; originally from Argentina he has spent 22 years in Angola. He has other communities whom he follows up dedicatedly, not sparing time or energy. Fr Agustín says: *Of the activities we carry out in these villages, evangelization is the most important, teaching what Jesus taught. [...] The main preparation is done by these two and all the community supports them with their prayers and speak to their neighbours about what goes on in church.*

The catechist is the second key player in evangelization and promoting the Gospel in the rural areas. Also in Angola – as John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia In Africa* (n.91) - *The role of the catechist has been and remains a determinative force in the implantation and expansion of the Church in Africa.*

They are the first ones responsible for the life of the community and sometimes not just the spiritual life. They do not act alone but involve the family. Domingos Marinha Gama has been a catechist since 1974; in 1998 he was appointed central catechist at Munenga. He

says: Since I began my work as coordinator catechist I have encountered many obstacles; but with God's help I have begun to see the way clear and I have begun to like the work. [...] A catechist's work is always there, because that's my vocation. At any moment at any time I have always had a group to prepare for the sacraments to help them better know the light of Christ.

The general catechists also have the task of ongoing formation for other catechists. Alexandre Manuel, who helps Fr Luis Victor Sequeira in the villages along the Cuanza River, has this role. He says: *As a coordinator catechist in this parish we bring all the catechists together every two months for preparation, and then we accompany them on mission visits every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and follow up their activities, especially catechetics.*

Pope Benedict XVI in *Africae Munus* wrote: *Dear catechists remember that for a great number of communities, you are the concrete and immediate face of the zealous disciple and model of Christian life.* (Africae Munus 127)



The faith in Africa - Togo

Parish as a school of faith



Mary Help of Christians parish is located to the east of Lomé, in a populous suburb, many of the people were followers of traditional religions and were converted to Christianity... In the area there is a strong sense of life and popular energy: when one converts, he gives himself with all his heart and soul to the Catholic faith. (Fr Ferdinand Zigui)

Salesians came to Lomé in 1982, as part of Project Africa. The first missionaries found the situation of youth in constant socio-political change. Poverty, illiteracy, lack of infrastructure didn't stop the Salesians from dedicating their efforts to evangelization and education of the young and the ordinary people.

Mary Help of Christians Parish, Lomé covers a wide area and a population of 80 thousand

people. They live in 5 parish communities in areas based on ethnic or tribal groups: Gbényédji, Ablogamé, Akodesséwa, Dékadjévi and Kanyikopé. The core of pastoral activity is offered by the catechists who prepare people for the sacraments and Christian living; it is a real journey of faith. It is open to youngsters from Christian families and other youths and adults who have truly decided to convert.

The first step is the important one, the pre-evangelization step where the main chance for them to meet is in the oratories and the schools. Fr Lucas Camino Navarro says: *The evangelization process, before beginning the catechumenate, is carried out through physical presence in this area by the oratory, a presence which attracts many youngsters with cultural, recreational and other activities, and it means*

people come to the Catholic Church already well-disposed, and happy with our good organization of things. The first question arises out of this: What do I need to do to become a Christian? And this is where the pre-catechumenate begins.

The catechumenate lasts for 4 years: 3 for Baptism plus one for Confirmation. Then comes a year for a deeper appreciation of the Faith.

Attention given to ongoing formation of new Christians and catechists forms part of the main thrust of activities in Mary Help of Christians parish. François Kalenon, responsible of The School of Faith, says: *The School of Faith began in our parish in the 1990s, in 1991/92 in fact. It is a setup where young people, catechists, those responsible for Movements are involved. It contributes to developing faith and forming catechists in improving their teaching. Topics like family, marriage, sacraments and daily life. All of this helps one mature in his or her faith.*

But the journey also has its moments of sheer effort and occasionally failure, returning to practicing traditional religions or sects. Fr Fer-

dinand Zigui, says: *Following the catechumen's journey and beginning a Christian way of life, many begin with a strong inner sense, very keen, but then "fall back" little by little ... then after a while they rediscover their faith when they realize they are "empty" and they should set out again on the journey of faith.*

The Easter Triduum, like in the early Christian communities, is the high point of the catechumenate. According to need and opportunity, during the days preceding Easter the preliminary rites of Baptism are celebrated like *Ephata* – opening up to the grace of hearing God's Word and professing it – **the handing over of the Symbol of Faith**, summary of Christian teaching, and **the anointing of the catechumens**. On Easter night, the huge parish Church seems so small for the thousands of faithful who take part in the Vigil. The Easter Vigil thus becomes not only a memorial of Christ's resurrection, but a celebration of life in faith. Hearing the word, the symbols, the body, singing, music and dance express and communicate the joy of life in God and the solemn nature of the celebration.



Testimonies

Testimony of Léa Marie KABORÉ – a mamma catechist

In 1993, I began my commitment in the group of catechists for youth. This group of lay people is engaged in witnessing to their own faith in spreading the Good News of Jesus, in particular among the children. Even as a girl I didn't want to keep the Jesus they had helped me to know to myself. I therefore tried to teach this faith to children, helping them discover the joy you experience when you meet Christ. I try to offer them a catechism that is not only teaching but rather a **catechism for life, catechism lived in the circumstances of everyday.**

The purpose of my commitment: to help youngsters find a life of faith.

At the Don Bosco 'Oratory, we practise this catechesis in the Salesian way with joy and optimism. We are trying to educate our oratorians to discover God through the "Good Nights" the Word of God and various activities the youngsters like ...

Friends, let's live our faith!

Dear young people of the whole world get involved in the Movements so that you will be **salt, light and leaven** to continue to build the Church and our world **in peace, reconciliation and justice.** Don't be afraid to bear witness that you are disciples of Christ.



Dear parents, we are the mirror for our children. They reflect in some way what we are, what our family is like. **Don't be afraid to educate our children according to our faith!**

Dear catechists, our mission is to create a relationship between the youngsters, the young people and Christ: it is a great responsibility. **Don't let us be afraid to communicate our faith to our catechumens.**

(Léa Marie KABORÉ is a catechist and animator in the parish of Our Lady of the Apostles and at the Don Bosco oratory in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).

Testimony of Hrrvé – A young catechumen

I've enjoyed my catechism very much: I was born in a Catholic community. Every Thursday and Saturday evening I used to take part in the catechism lessons in spite of the fact that some of my companions said that instead I should go to play with them. I made my first communion in 2006, and three years later I was confirmed. Since then I have felt my heart full and I go to Mass regularly every Sunday. I invite all young people to follow the catechism lessons, and to be constructors and not consumers of them; to give up everything that leads to evil and instead to take part in the various church activities. (Hervé)



Testimony of Héléne – a young catechumen

Before being confirmed I didn't go to Mass, take advice from anyone or know any prayers. After beginning catechism I realised that I was like a lost sheep. I used to listen carefully to the "Mamma Catechist" whose questions made me think about my life. Three years later I was baptised and I decided to live my life with Jesus, getting involved in Young Peoples' Catholic Action. Now that I am confirmed I realise that the One on whom we fix our gaze gives us strength to face obstacles. To young people I say: Yes, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. And I invite them to carry out their mission in the Church: there is so much to do and we, the young, are strong and we need to help the Christian community to proclaim the Word of God. We should remind ourselves that the future is ours; we are the adults of tomorrow. Dear young people think about these questions: Who am I today? What is the meaning of my life? On whom do I base my life? How am I building my future starting today? (Héléne)



Testimony of Steve Jonas – a young catechumen

My journey in the catechism began with my mother, rooted in the Christian practice of my family until I was six years old when I started going to catechism in the parish, every Thursday and Saturday. The catechist was amazed with my answers which were almost always right. When I received the Body of Christ for the first time I trembled inside. Conquered by Christ my life was changed by what I experienced.

I speak to all the young people in the world, in particular those in Burkina Faso: may they be ready to proclaim the Word of God now and always, to put aside everything that does not help them to bear witness to the presence of God. Let's go! We are the leaven in our world. My experience of Jesus makes these words of his ring out in my heart: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me." (Mt 25,40) (Steve Jonas)



SMD 2013 Project

Contribute to catechist formation and production of catechetical materials in local African languages!

Provide a scholarship for the poorest catechists!

Support production of materials for catechist formation courses!

Help them to buy a Bible, catechism, and other catechetics materials!



In Tanzania - Makalala:

The catechist centre, set up as a proper campus, takes in and prepares lay catechists from various dioceses. Bible classes, moral teaching, Church doctrine, introduction to psychology and methodology, mathematics, civic education, Swahili, the national language, and English are amongst the courses offered. (Watch video 2)

In Angola - Dondo and Calulo:

Calulo has more than 100 villages each with its own catechist. In Moxico there are villages 600 km away from the centre, almost inaccessible. The priest can get there only once a year. There are Christian communities and small mission chapels there, all led by catechists. (Watch video 4)

In Angola - Luanda: In 2012, in total, more than 10,800 catechumens attended 21 formation centres and 637 catechists work in them. (Watch video 3)

In Togo - Lome:

School of Faith. This is for young people, catechists and leaders of Movements. It contributes to Faith development and catechist formation so they can improve their catechism teaching. Topics include family, marriage, sacraments and daily life. (Watch video 5)



I urge bishops and priests to be concerned for the human, intellectual, doctrinal, moral, spiritual and pastoral formation of catechists. They should pay great attention to the living conditions of catechists, in order to ensure their dignity. Nor should they overlook their legitimate material needs, since the faithful worker in the Lord's vineyard has a right to a just recompense (cf. Mt 20:1-16), while awaiting their due from the Lord, for he alone is just and knows our hearts.

(Benedict XVI, Africae Munus, 126)

For the transfer of money raised:

Fondazione Don Bosco nel Mondo
Via della Pisana, 1111 – 00163 Roma
Banca Popolare di Sondrio – Agenzia 2, Roma, Italia
IBAN IT 26 V 05696 03202 000008100X30 (per Euro)
IBAN IT 13 Z 05696 03202 VAR US 0008100 (per USD)
SWIFT: POSOIT22
Causale: **GMS 2013**
Tel. (+39) 06 6561 2764
• E-Mail: donbosconelmondo@sdb.org
web: www.donbosconelmondo.org



Teaching materials

Poster

Booklet

Holy picture with prayer

DVD with texts in various languages, presentations (PowerPoint) folders with photos

DVD with 5 videos:

The videos offered for the Salesian Mission Day 2013 speak of Salesian pastoral activity in some Africa countries and have certain common elements running through them which receive varied emphasis: catechumenate, strict collaboration between priests and catechists, Easter Triduum and baptismal rites. Each video also has a brief comment by way of a quotation from the post-synodal Exhortation *Africae Munus* of Benedict XVI.

The **first video**, *The Faith Journey in Africa*, general in nature, briefly tells the story of how the Salesian charism came about and developed in the African continent and the importance of the pastoral option of the Church: the catechumenate as a journey of conversion and formation to Christian faith.

The **second video**, *Makalala Catechist School*, is about the catechist who has an important role in African pastoral activity. It presents the work of formation happening at Makalala, in the south of Tanzania.

The **third video**, *There is leaven in Luanda* and the **fourth video**, *Workers in the harvest*, present the Salesian work of evangelization in Angola in two different contexts. The first focuses on the problems of the large urban centres; the second shows the systematic work of the missionaries called to go out to the many villages spread throughout this broad territory. In both circumstances one sees the strong need for strict cooperation between consecrated and lay, priest and catechist.

The **fifth video**, *Parish as a school of faith*, describes the work and the way it has been organised by the very large Mary Help of Christians Parish, Lomè, Togo. This offers a glimpse especially at the high point of the catechumenal journey: the Easter Triduum, which is a joyful, profound experience.

Questions to aid reflection

Given the wealth of experiences seen in the faith journey in Africa, what possibilities are there in your context for initial proclamation, catechesis and catechumenate?

The African continent is often viewed from a perspective of poverty, war and suffering. What activities could you undertake in order to get to know the situation in Africa better, as one of a deep experience of faith and human values?

During this Year of Faith, how can you re-ignite your own faith and the faith of the young in your context?

The Mission Rosary for the Year of Faith

As a Salesian Community or Educative - Pastoral Community let us contemplate, through Mary's eyes, the mystery of Christ as it is revealed and proclaimed across the continents.

What is the Mission Rosary

In February 1951 Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (USA, 1895 – 1979) used radio (The Catholic Hour) to launch the 'World Mission Rosary'. This rosary is made up of 5 colours representing five continents. Main intentions are for peace in the world and proclamation of the Gospel.

AFRICA - green

AMERICA - red

EUROPA - white

OCEANIA - blue

ASIA - yellow



Worldwide Prayer Campaign

For the Year of Faith the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples is launching a worldwide campaign. Its aim is to use the Rosary as a way of accompanying the work of evangelization throughout the world and to pray that many of the baptised may deepen their faith'. Pope Benedict XVI has told national Directors of the Pontifical Mission Society that: *Today the Mission needs intense prayer.* (11 May 2012)



Prayer

Jesus walk with me
Jesus stay with me
Jesus never leave me
Jesus evangelize me

May my mouth speak words of peace and reconciliation
May my ear listen to your voice
May my heart never be cold
May children never see me and run away

Mary Queen of Africa, protect your children
Mary Mother of the Church, journey with us
Let our feet run fast to help the sick and the poor
Let our lips magnify the greatness of God

Jesus walk with me
Jesus stay with me
Jesus never leave me
I am your witness.
Amen



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