

CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



A Publication of the Mission Department for the Salesian Communities and Friends of the Salesian Mission

Dear Salesians and friends of the Salesian mission,

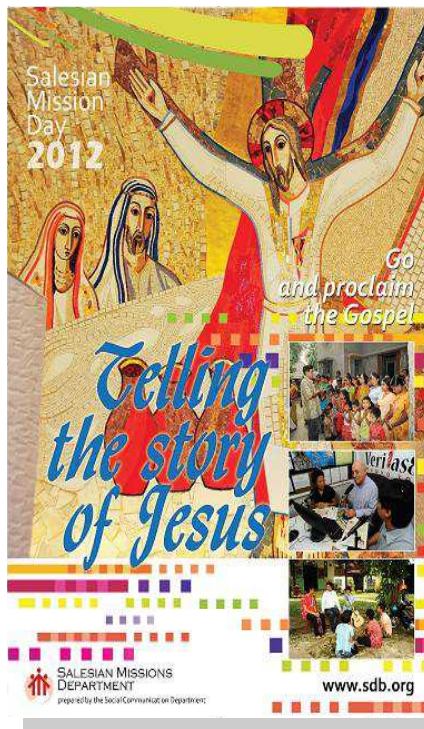
The 25th Salesian Mission Day (SMD) 2012 with the theme "Telling the Story of Jesus" is an opportunity of growing in following in the footsteps of Don Bosco the Saint - educator, pastor, communicator and missionary. Telling the story of Jesus to the young - we all agree on this! There are just some questions: How? When? Where? We know that from a heart full of Jesus there naturally flow words about our Master.

As Sons of Don Bosco, we are called to communicate everywhere: in educational meetings with the young, in small Christian communities, through the radio, the TV, on the Internet, on social networks or through blogs, by means of the theatre or music. The creativity of the great Missionaries shows us all the typical Salesian ways of communicating the faith to non-Christians. The young Churches of Asia, many of them with a life story of scarcely a few decades of first evangelisation inspire us with their dynamic approach in telling the story of Jesus!

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for the Missions

2012

What is Salesian Mission Day all about?



Above all it is important to underline that the *Salesian Mission Day* (GMS) is primarily directed to each Salesian and to every local and Provincial Salesian community.

For us Salesians the period of preparation for the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco is a call to **rediscover** his great inspirations, his deepest motivations, his courageous choices, and especially his **missionary spirit**. And thus revive and keep alive the missionary flame that is an essential dimension of our Salesian vocation (Const. 30).

In a time when there are great needs but a numerical shortage of Salesians there is a **real danger** that the confreres or a Province would close itself in within its territory because looking beyond, with a sense of mission, would require a new energy that it does not have.

But closing in would, consequently, **extinguish the apostolic zeal and enthusiasm for the Salesians life** which is noticed by young people, especially those who make their vocational discernment with us.

Since 1988 a missionary theme has been offered to the entire Congregation, so that **all the salesian communities** may get to know about a missionary situation in a particular continent and open its eyes to new missionary situations, overcoming every temptation to shut oneself off in one's own place and to remember the universal outreach of the Salesian charism and live it fully inserted in the heart of the universal Church.

That's why the celebration of the **SMD** is an important moment in the missionary animation of the Salesians in the Provinces and in the houses; of those who attend our schools, vocational training centres, parishes, oratories, youth groups, and of the Salesian Family, so as to **rediscover the missionary zeal of Don Bosco and the dynamic vitality of the Salesian charism!**

This is not about an isolated event or an occasional activity but an **educative pastoral journey** lasting some weeks, or a number of initiatives throughout the year, of which the **SMD** is its culmination.

Prayer is my strength to face many missionary challenges



I wanted to be a missionary but I had struggled to make the decision because if I were to become a missionary I would live far from my family and my friends. However, towards the end of the postnoviciate, I finally decided to write my application. My greatest desire was to spend my life for others in the mission land in gratitude to God and to Don Bosco for the many blessings I have received as a Salesian.

I was sent to Zambia where I arrived on April 1, 2010. After some weeks of introduction in the capital, Lusaka I went for English language course. Here everything was new and strange to me. Here I attended the longest Mass during the ordination of a priest - 5 hours! I was so surprised when I saw the people singing and dancing during the Eucharist. I was equally surprised when I saw

many poor village youth playing football without shoes and with the ball made of plastic bags.

I still consider myself a greenhorn missionary and I look forward to learning many more new things. So far my main challenge was language. In Zambia there are many languages. I felt really bad when people didn't understand what I was saying as well as when I could not understand what they were trying to tell me. The youth know English and their local language. I often felt alone in their midst because they prefer to speak their local language which I didn't understand at all.

This difficulty sometimes made me to get bored and even made me ask if I did the right thing being a missionary. But I overcame these doubts by sharing my difficulties with a fellow missionary, and some friends. Through our sharing I realised that I was not alone. So we encouraged each other and continue to pray for one another.

But my greatest strength was in talking to Jesus or just seating in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I knew that he perfectly understood what I wanted to tell him, as well as my difficulties and doubts. I continually pray to him to help me each day because I realised that although my problems, difficulties remain, now I have more energy and deeper motivation to continue my missionary vocation. I also believe that the prayer of so many people like my parents, classmates, and friends sustain me in my missionary vocation. And I am sure that God, our Lady and Don Bosco are always with me!



I am ever grateful to God for the gift of my life and missionary vocation. I am beholden to my parents for continually supporting me in my vocation as a Salesian lay brother. I am thankful to our Congregation for giving me the possibility to follow my missionary vocation!

Br. Martin Manh Hien Nguyen
Vietnamese, missionary in Zambia



Salesian Missionary Intention

SALESIAN MISSION DAY 2012 - "Telling the Story of Jesus"

That the Salesian Mission Day 2012 may stir up in all Salesian Provinces of the world, creative ways to share with young people one's own personal experience of Jesus, especially with those who are far from the life of the Church or with the followers of other religions .

The Salesian Missions Day 2012 is inspired by the words of the Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in Asia n. 20 of John Paul II: "the proclamation of Jesus Christ can most effectively be made by narrating his story, as the Gospels do". It is an invitation to be disciples of Christ, evangelised, before becoming apostles, evangelisers who continue the narration of the missionary presence in the Congregation which is at the heart of the mission of the Church. The Salesian Mission Day 2012 is ,therefore, an invitation to live much more in the heart of the universal Church.

