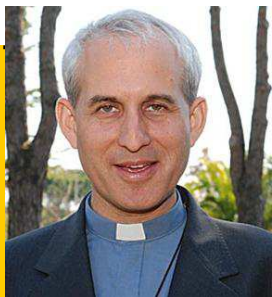


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



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



Dear friends,

The month of June is wholly focused on the merciful and missionary heart of Jesus. This month we ask Him for more Salesian apostolic zeal in Europe! It is true that the average age continues to grow in the “old continent”, however this cannot become a reason to lessen the zeal of our *da mihi animas!*

In my constant communication with the confreres, I received these days the application of a Salesian, over seventy years old, inquiring if there is some limit to the sending of missionaries *ad gentes*. I told him that we cannot put limits neither to the mission nor to Divine Providence!

Visiting Maputo in Mozambique, I met Bro. Pedrosa SDB, an 81 years old Portuguese, who arrived in the mission there in 1968. He is happy that every weekend - besides his many weekly activities - he can catechize different groups of young people .

On the other hand, the 27th General Chapter has underlined “*that prayer and sacrificial offering of one’s life by the elderly and sick Salesians is a true apostolate with and for young people; they remain ‘active’ part of the community that lives the ‘da mihi animas’.* In fact the communities are committing themselves not to exclude them from the mission.” Let no one, therefore, feel being in the “garage” of the mission. Dear confreres in the infirmaries of the Congregation, we entrust the missionaries to your constant prayer, and this month, especially the Salesians in Europe. Thank you!

G. Basañes
Fr. Guillermo Basañes SDB
Councillor for the Missions

THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD SPURS US ON TO PROCLAIM TO ALL

“Evangelising at this time of great social transformation requires a missionary Church impelled to go forth, capable of discerning how to deal with various cultures and man’s visions. Because a world in transformation needs a Church renewed and transformed by contemplation and personal contact with Christ, through the power of the Spirit. The Spirit of Christ is the source of renewal, for he enables us to discover new paths, new creative... Neither our weaknesses, nor our sins, nor the many obstacles that are placed in the way of witnessing and proclaiming the Gospel can hold us back. **The experience of an encounter with the Lord is what spurs us on and gives us the joy of announcing him to all peoples.** ... Evangelization, which must reach everyone, is nevertheless called to begin with the least, with the poor, with those who are weighed down by the burden and strain of life... The Church is the people of the Beatitudes, the home of the poor, of the afflicted, of the excluded and persecuted, of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. You are asked to work and endeavour so that the ecclesial community may be ready to receive the poor with preferential love, keeping the doors of the Church open so that all may enter and find refuge therein.”

Pope Francis
to participants in
the meeting of the
Pontifical Mission
Societies
May 9, 2014





When I was in the postnoviciate I had written to Fr. Luc Van Looy, then Councillor for the missions, and he offered me some possible mission field, then again as a student of theology and also as a young priest ... I remember that he had written advising me to continue to pray ... and that the Lord will call me through the Superiors ... many years passed since then ... and in 1996, when I was on my fifth year as Novice Master of Argentina and Paraguay ... I felt a call to return to Japan, I did not know if I was to return as a missionary, but I decided to return entrusting the future of my life to God alone ... I felt just like my parents who migrated to Argentina in 1964, listening to the voice of God. Like Abraham I also returned to Japan ... it was like my second exodus ... the first was in 1964 when we left for Argentina with my parents and four brothers Angel and Fidel SDB ... Domingo and Paulino. My other four brothers and a sister who died at birth were born there...

As a missionary in Japan, my first challenge was the Japanese language. I was in Japan only until the third grade (I was 8 and a half years when we migrated) and in Argentina we lived (in a town called Media Agua) where there were no Japanese families... At first I was not even aware that I was Japanese so I quickly learnt not only Spanish ... but also drink *mate* and eat *asado*, play football, and be the official altar server at Sunday Mass in our parish ...

Now I am 58 years old and I am the Vice Provincial of Japan, but in 1997, when I returned to Japan after 33 years, I was 42 years old. I was

We migrated to Argentina and I returned to Japan as a missionary

an *Ursashima Taroo* (a legendary Japanese who, after spending years in paradise under the sea, returned to his village where he was now un-

known and no one knew where his house was). Having a Japanese face and not nese was quite difficult ... I became a child again ... learning not only the language but also the culture and customs of Japanese society, including how to be a Christian in Japan where Catholicism is a minority (one million Japanese and foreigners among 126 million inhabitants).

As a missionary, my greatest joy are the confreres and friends that the Lord has given me in Japan ... for me they are all wonderful and each time I discover more their kindness, their patience, their solidarity, respect, their religiosity, their orderliness and cleanliness Even after being hit by the tsunami, particularly in the region of Fukushima, I discovered a new Japan, the spirit of solidarity beyond the walls of Christian churches and Buddhist monasteries. I have experienced the power of interfaith solidarity ...

In the course of my life I had to say 'yes' to tasks that have always exceeded my ability. The human fear of the unknown is normal, but trust in the loving presence of God gives one so much peace and strength to go on. Hence, I invite all of you who are younger than me (probably) to be more courageous to listen to the voice of the Lord calling you as a missionary and embark on an adventure full of hope. Those who obey God immediately will always receive his blessing and He will never abandon you!



Fr. Mario Yamanouchi

Japanese migrant to Argentina and missionary in Japan



Salesian Missionary Intention

For "Project Europe" in Countries of North Europe

May Salesian communities in Europe who are experiencing the powerful effects of ageing believe in the power of regeneration in the Spirit thanks to young missionaries and confreres from other countries, and may they respond to the expectations of needy youth and support them in their search for meaning in life. May the Polish Provinces be ever more open and offer a real contribution to Project Europe beyond their own country.



Countries in the West in North Europe are suffering from lack of vocations and ageing amongst confreres. Revitalisation from within is helped by the presence of young confreres and lay volunteers from other Provinces. Confreres begin to believe that it is possible to regenerate the charism. The processes of Project Europe need to continue through support from the entire Congregation. The need for the Salesian charism of education in Europe goes without saying; young people often lost in European societies await guidance and support through education in order to find happiness. Every effort at international collaboration is well-regarded and brings with it signs of a rebirth of enthusiasm and the best practice which is essential for the future. Our support in prayer is always of great assistance so that we can believe that it is only the Spirit can revive Christian hope and faith in an ageing Europe and give young people a vision of a happy and Christian life.