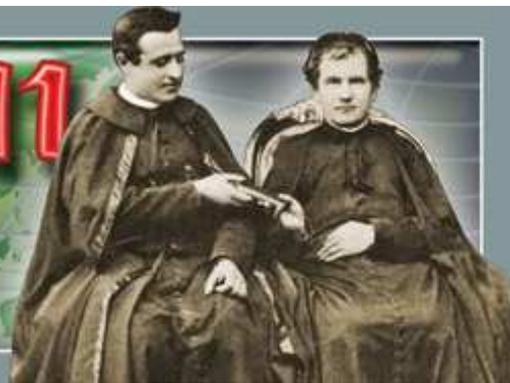


CAGLIERO 11

Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation



THE MISSIONARY DREAMS OF DON BOSCO / 4



Dear Salesian missionaries and friends of the Salesian mission!

I send you my cordial greetings from Rome where I am now, together with the new missionaries!

Contemplating the missionary heart of Don Bosco leads us to rediscover this month his fourth missionary dream of 1886, where he travelled around the globe. This dream becomes reality every last Sunday of September with each new missionary expedition. Most of the 42 new Missionaries of 2010 came from lands mentioned in the 4th dream - Africa, Asia and Oceania. Let us give a hand to realize the dreams of Don Bosco 125 years later!

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

The Youth of Oceania Cry Out to Don Bosco "Come and Help Us"!

In 1885, Don Bosco dreamt of the the boundless future of the Salesian Society in the missions. Don Bosco narrated and commented on it to the whole chapter on the evening of July 2, 1885. [For the full text see sdl.org (= salesian digital library).



«It seemed that I stood on a high mountain ... I saw isolated things all simultaneously ... I seemed to be on the plains of Mesopotamia ... then I thought I was in the heart of Africa in an immense desert ...

Finally I thought I was in Australia. ... it was not a continent, but a number of islands grouped together, whose inhabitants varied in character and appearance. There was a big crowd of young people living there who tried to come to us, but could not because of the distance and the waters that separated them from us. Nevertheless, they held their hands towards Don Bosco and the Salesians, saying, *Come and help us!* Why do you not fulfill what your fathers have began? - Many held back, but others made all the possible effort to push their way to wild animals to reach the Salesians, who were unknown to me, and they began to sing: *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.* A little distance away, I could see groups of many islands but could not distinguish any detail. I felt that all this indicated that Divine Providence was offering part of this evangelical field to the Salesians, but for some future period. Their efforts will bear fruit, for the hand of the Lord will constantly be upon them, if they will not forget His favours!»

What is the Course for New Missionaries for?

September 2 –26, 2010

The few days course for new missionaries was first organised by Fr. Luciano Odorico. Later Fr. Francis Alencherry extended the course for two weeks. Now the course is 25 days. But is there really a need for such a long?

Today, more than ever, the enthusiasm and faith of the missionary who goes to the missions are not enough, even if they remain fundamental criteria. It is essential that the missionary, even if he goes only for a few years, makes a careful examination of the reasons for his going to the missions. On the other hand, it is important that the departing missionary is provided the necessary tools to encounter a new people and take on the personal attitude of openness, which is respectful and trusting towards the 'other' in order to foster a pleasant, efficient, humble and discreet presence. Certainly the missionary is a gift and a blessing, he brings new strength and vitality

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to the Province and the local Church; the richness of his faith and culture and his own personal gifts enrich the Province and the local Church, but without adequate preparation the newcomer could actually become a disturbance or an uncomfortable presence because he is incapable of fostering



t a t i o n dialogue with the new reality. The **Orientation Course for New Missionaries** is envisioned as an immediate preparation of the departing missionaries through four nuclei: introductory, anthropo-cultural, missiological (Rome) and the Salesian nucleus (in a form of spiritual journey through Salesian holy places (Turin-Colle). It is through prayer, witness of life, sharing of experiences, personal reflections and through a joyful life with other course participants that the new missionary is helped in verifying, deepening

and sometimes even discovering the fundamental reasons for his going to the missions.

Presuppositions: The preparation for missionary life begins years before in the home Province of the missionary, where the candidate is accompanied in discerning his suitability and the necessary qualities leading to the option for missionary life. The home Province of the missionary has the commitment to provide the departing missionary an opportunity to take part in meetings or courses for departing missionaries, if they are organised in the country of origin.

The **Missions Department** has published the *Criteria for the Discernment of Missionary Vocations* as essential guidelines on the path leading to the choice of candidate for the missions. A confrere who has difficulty in integrating in the ordinary life of the community in his home Province is not meant to be a missionary for the culture shock and the new and more challenging environment in the missions will not only not help solve these problems, they might even aggravate it.

The **Province which receives** the new missionary has also the commitment to guide and foster the integration of the new missionary in his new cultural social and ecclesial context. This requires an assiduous initial accompaniment. This means, above all, ensure that he has a spiritual guide and, during the early years, a missionary who could accompany him on his first steps in missions. It is also essential that within a year in the missions the new missionary is given the opportunity to participate in courses organised by local church or conference of religious to better understand the local culture and promote a proper inculturation.

Indeed, every Salesian missionary is a precious gift for the entire congregation. But it is a gift that requires careful prior preparation as well as assiduous initial accompaniment. This, certainly, involves us all!



Salesian Missionary Expedition of 2009

Fr. Alfred Maravilla, SDB

Coordinator, Course for New Missionaries
Missions Department



Salesian Missionary Intention

Salesian Communities of Italy

That all the Salesian communities in Italy may know how to relaunch and accompany missionary groups, summer experiences abroad and missionary volunteer service for a renewed missionary impetus in Italy and for missions *ad gentes*.

All the six provinces of Italy have a great missionary heritage - with hundreds of missionaries *ad gentes* who are present today in all five continents, with numerous active missionary groups in our works, various missionary movements (e.g. Matto Grosso, Friends Sidamo, Communities' Mission Bologna, VIS - international volunteer, missionary groups of SDB & FMA Provinces, etc). The experiences of young missionaries recorded in the magazine *Gioventù missionaria* (1923-1975), and the thousands of missionary vocations from missionary aspirantates of Piedmont (Ivrea, Colle Don Bosco, Cumiana, Rebaudengo, Penang ...) inspire us to involve young people in the mission of the universal Church. The *Harambee* - feast of Salesian missionary groups at the national level, held during the missionary send off on the last Sunday in September, is the best expression of missionary impetus. They are a source of inspiration for us as well to continue in the missionary animation of the young.



Send your suggestions and contributions to cagliero11@gmail.com