

N. 54 - June 2013



Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation

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

Dear confreres and friends of the Salesian missions!

June - month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - offers us a chance to renew the radical witness of the Gospel way of life! Pope Francis pushes us to the 'periphery' of the world with his deep, simple and very missionary style!

After three years of work finally the short document on *The Missionary Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco* (http://www.sdb.org/en/Departments/Missions/Mission_Formation) for all Salesians in the world has been approved by the Rector Major and his Council, and published on 24th of January 2013, signed by the Councillors for formation and for the missions.

It seems a contradiction that we are spread around the world in 133 countries, yet the life of the ordinary Salesian becomes more focused in the local reality, forgetting that he is part of the larger world community to which he was incorporated through his religious profession (Const Art. 59). Precisely because we live in a globalised world we need a lot of an explicitly missionary formation. Without the missionary formation we cannot expect a life of radical witness to the Gospel way of life!

I thank all who have collaborated in the preparation of the document! I thank the Provincials, the Delegates for formation and for missionary animation who have already helped the confreres discover this document. I invite everyone to get hold of the document.

I entrust the entire journey to Mary, the first disciple and missionary of Jesus!

Václav Klement
Fr. Václav Klement, SDB
Councillor for Missions

**Sacred Heart of Jesus
send us good and worthy Salesian vocations!**

Don Bosco had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart which was expressed through his characteristic insistence on frequent confession and communion and daily Mass as columns on which his educational enterprise was built. He recommended it to his boys; he printed the booklets *The Nine Offices* and the *Guard of Honour*; he commissioned Fr. Bonetti to write the *A Month in Honour of the Sacred Heart*. The First Friday of the Month in honour of Sacred Heart was prescribed in the Regulations of the Oratory. The *Chaplet to the Sacred Heart of Jesus* was another practice which was found in the *Companion of Youth*. But Don Bosco wanted to express the concrete and valid part of this devotion in his work for youth at risk through the good work of leading away from sin a companion and directing him to what is good. Towards the end of his life he accepted the request of Pope Leo XIII and built with great sacrifice the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

His first successor, Blessed Michael Rua, consecrated the Salesian Congregation to the Sacred Heart on December 31, 1899 and on that occasion, had sent to all the houses an "Instruction" about this devotion. He underlined its importance especially for the houses of formation and asked that the novitiates be dedicated to Him. A few days before he died Fr. Rua asked Fr. Francis Cerutti that a prayer to the Sacred Heart for vocations be composed. The prayer below was presented to him, which he approved, then recited it and asked that a copy be placed under his pillow.

O cor Jesu sacratissimum,
ut bonos et dignos operarios
piae Salesianorum Societati mittere
et in ea conservare digneris,
te rogamus audi nos!

O Sacred Heart of Jesus
that you may send
good and worthy members
to our Pious Salesian Society
and keep them faithful to it,
we beseech you hear us!

Jesus Christ, Salesian Parish, Victorias, Philippines



An interview of Fr. Américo Chaquise, Superior of the Vice Province of Mozambique in Portuguese with subtitles in English: <http://vimeo.com/66396020>



A good spiritual guide is the secret of a happy missionary

Since I was an English teacher before I joined the Salesians, I applied to be a missionary in any English speaking country in Europe or elsewhere. To my surprise, in 2003, as a deacon, the Provincial proposed to send me to Hungary! I hesitated but I accepted to work in Hungary for 3 years. Meanwhile, finishing my theological studies in Poland, I also tried to study Hungarian but I found it so hard and complex that I would fall asleep whenever I tried to study it. The next year, after my priestly ordination, I went to Hungary as the first European missionary of Project Europe!

My first 3 years were mainly language studies. I attended the Debrecen University intensive language course for 8 months in Budapest. But the language and culture just seemed so strange and difficult. I felt like a little child who could not communicate. I lost my independence. I suffered psychologically and spiritually. In fact, I wanted to leave Hungary 3 times. On hindsight, this experience taught me to understand and accept others in the same way that I want people to understand and accept me.

After the course I was sent to Péliföldszentkereszt where a Salesian was assigned to guide my introduction to the new language and culture. With his help I dared to "set out into the deep"! But there were days when I would get upset and would not want to teach because the students made fun of my Hungarian. It was only when I learnt to laugh at my own mistakes that I felt 'liberated' to dare to speak. Gradually, I found many good friends who helped me with my preaching and translation. Now I speak and write in Hungarian with few mistakes. Thanks to the effort I made in my first years.



Although Hungary was evangelised in the 10th century, the communist persecution from 1950 to 1990 has almost wiped out Christianity. Yet, we found it easier to speak about Don Bosco and his pedagogy as a point of departure for evangelisation because the Preventive System is permeated by the Gospel. The friendly atmosphere in our schools and oratories often becomes the starting point which stirs up interest of the faith. Since 2010 I have been working in our Salesian school for Gypsies in Kazincbarcika. Many of the youngsters and teachers were baptised by their Gypsy parents as children but do not practice their Christian faith. A multitude of different reasons make our work complex in many areas where there is a great

and urgent need not only of new evangelisation but even of initial proclamation. Thus, I decided to remain here for good as missionary. In 2010 I was invited to participate in the orientation course for new missionaries and I received the missionary cross in Valdocco.

Looking for a spiritual guide is no easy task but he is indispensable to every missionary. If I am still a missionary in Hungary today, it's because I have a regular and stable Salesian spiritual director. He is the person I can speak to any time. At first it was quite difficult, but with time I took more courage to open my thoughts, desires, and opinions to him. Now I became more certain about my missionary vocation and I became more spiritually stable in facing challenges. Thanks to my spiritual guide I am happy as a missionary in Hungary. I learnt to love more the youth and, consequently, I came closer to God!

Fr. Robert Kukuczka
Polish, missionary in Hungary



Salesian Missionary Intention

Western Europe Region - Spain, Portugal, France - (South) Belgium

That during the Year of Faith the confreres of the region of Western Europe, the most vocationally arid of all 8 Salesian regions in the world, may continue to build a vocational culture with faith, enthusiasm and patience.

The region of Western Europe is made up of 8 Provinces and about 1450 confreres. It is the only one of the eight regions without a Salesian novitiate. There were three novices during the school year 2012-2013. The highly secularised context, low birth rate and the very high average age of confreres do not promote vocations to the consecrated life in general. We pray that during the Year of Faith and the visit of the relics of Don Bosco in the region may strengthen the confreres in their life of faith, inspire a renewed enthusiasm and passion to build up even today a culture of vocations among young people in our settings.



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